[Sh. Kamal Nath]

tion; we are providing medicinal help; provision has been made in the Bill for prevention of communicable diseases by way of immunisation of live-stock in those areas; we are funding for setting up of veterinary units in national parks, etc. We shall look at this problem in Kanha.

Sir, once again I would like to thank the hon. Members for the kind of support they have extended to this amendment Bill. There has been a rare unanimity and I am thankful and grateful to every one.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK(Bolangir): Sir, maximum number of tribal people are living in the Western parts of Orissa like Koraput, Kalahandl, Phulwani, Bolangir, etc., I am from that area. The State Government has built a deer park at Harishankar of Bolangir. I would request the Central Government and the hon. Minister to provide more money for that. To check poaching if the Central Government takes a big area there and have a national park, that will be better for the people of western Orissa. That is my request.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The problem in these areas around national parks and sanctuaries has been felt. We have embarked on a very elaborate-eco-development scheme for these areas. I shall have a look at the specific problem the Member is mentioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now taka up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 52 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 52 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

16.23 hrs.

CANCELLATION OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN PUNJAB BILL
PUNJAB BUDGET 1991-92 —GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB) 1991-92

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up combined discussion on Cancellation of General Elections in Punjab Bill, 1991 General Discussion on the Punjab Budget, and the discussion and voting on Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) for 1991-92 for which 3 1/2 hours have been allotted. The Minister may move motion for consideration of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to cancel certain notifications calling for general elections in relation to the State of Punjab, be taken into consideration."

As Hon. Members are aware, Elections to the Tenth Lok Sabha and to certain State Assemblies were announced in April last. The Election Commission, however, after taking into account all relevant factors and the prevailing circumstances in the State of Punjab and having been satisfied that it was not possible to hold fair and free polls in that State on the scheduled dates, extended the date of polls twice - first from the original date of 20th May, 1991 to 22nd June, 1991 and then to 25th September, 1991.

After the announcement of elections, large scale killings and massacre of innocent people had taken place. Up to 15 July, 1991, 23 contesting candidates had been killed necessitating the countermanding of elections in various constituencies in the State. Because of postponement of elections protracted security arrangements for the safety of candidates contesting the elections have become imperative. It is becoming extremely difficult to make such arrangements for a long period by deploying paramilitary forces who are already under great strain as they had been sent to that State after they had completed strenuous election duty in other States. In view of all the aforesaid circumstances and difficulties and also to guard against further loss of lives of the candidates and other innocent persons, it has become necessary to cancel the notifications calling for general elections in the State of Punjab for the present. Elections shall be held as soon as congenial atmosphere is created for holding free and fair elections in Punjab.

The situation in Punjab is still not conducive for holding free and fair elections in the State and the Government has been forced to take the extraordinary step of cancellation of elections in Punjab. The Government, however, have considered it proper not to assume sweeping powers to cancel an election by making amendment to the Statute as giving such sweeping powers is fraught with grave dangers and may be misused. On the other hand, Government has brought this Bill as a one time measure to cancel the elections only in the State of Punjab in view of extraordinary situation existing there. It is my earnest hope that the Bill will have the unanimous support of all sections of the House.

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to cancel certain notifications calling for general elections in relation to the State of Punjab be taken into consideration."

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1992, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 30."

Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) 1991-92 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	*Name of Demand*	*Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).*	
		Revenue Rs.	*Capital Rs.*
1.	Agricultural and Forests	84,98,94,000	27,53,22,000

No. of Demand	*Name of Demand*	*Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).*	
		Revenue Rs.	*Capital Rs.*
2.	Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	34,94,01,000	1,34,62,000
3.	Co-operation	12,76,17,000	54,69,05,000
4.	Defence Service Welfare	3,73,86,000	37,50,000
5.	Education	4,42,88,48,000	23,43,000
6.	Elections	5,01,27,000	...
7.	Excise and Taxation	12,62,82,000	...
8.	Finance	2,20,17,48,000	7,75,72,000
9.	Food and Supplies	3,64,95,000	6,71,04,48,000
10.	General Administration	14,94,89,000	...
11.	Health and Family Welfare	1,38,98,89,000	...
12.	Home Affairs and Justice	1,84,04,07,000	7,50,00,000
13.	Industries	10,51,38,000	29,63,25,000
14.	Information and Public Relations	4,74,93,000	...
15.	Irrigation and Power	11,34,55,47,000	4,74,31,47,000
16.	Labour and Employment	4,98,63,000	...
17.	Local Government, Housing and Urban development	15,57,45,000	21,20,81,000
18.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms	1,76,25,000	...
19.	Planning	2,18,59,36,000,	...
20.	Programme Implementation	3,00,000	...
21.	Public Works	1,42,01,35,000	75,22,00,000
22.	Revenue and Rehabilitation	68,00,51,000	...

No. of Demand	*Name of Demand*	*Amount of Demands for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 11th March, 1991).*	
		Revenue Rs.	*Capital Rs.*
23.	Rural Development and Panchayats	32,42,25,000	...
24.	Science, Technology and Environment	90,90,000	63,42,000
25.	Social and Women's Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes	39,60,67,000	4,18,82,000
26.	State Legislature	1,82,88,000	...
27.	Technical Education and Industrial Training	28,88,04,000	39,63,000
28.	Tourism and Cultural Affairs	1,94,76,000	2,59,50,000
29.	Transport	88,88,10,000	22,04,11,000
30.	Vigilance	1,78,77,000	...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhogendra Jha has tabled end Motions for the above Demands for grants. He is not present here. Shri M.L. Khurana may speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to participate in the discussion on the Punjab budget and the cancellation of Punjab election.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Sir, I have received four pamphlets on the Punjab budget the first one is of 3 pages, the second one is of 13 pages, the third one is of 23 pages and the fourth one is of 55 pages.

16.27 hrs.

RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*

Further a speech of one page containing both the version Hindi and English on each side of the page has also been received by me.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Whose speech it is?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: This is the speech of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and it relates to Punjab. I am stating all this just to show the seriousness of the Government regarding this budget. The Administrative details of the year 1990-91 must have also been supplied to us. It is usually attached with every budget. There is no account of the last year income and expenditure in it. First I thought that this particular paper might be missing but I came to know later on that there was no such paper. The previous year's administrative report which is very much a a part of the budget has also not been made available to us. I am pointing out all these shortcomings

[Sh. Madan Lai Khurana]

to show that the Government has taken this budget very lightly in the same manner as it is taking lightly the problems of Punjab and Kashmir.

MR. Chairman, Sir, the details have been given in this budget Head-wise instead of scheme-wise. The scheme wise details can be easily studied. The revise estimate of 1990-91 which includes Punjab Pay Commission also has become meaningless as one cannot know these two, separately. The revised estimates would have been more meaningful if the Punjab Pay Commission were attached to it separately.

Sir, thirdly, I would like to say something about the data given in the budget. There was an estimate of Rs. 196.94 crores for the Health and Family Welfare in the year 1990-91, which has been reduced this year to Rs. 185.38 crores. What does it mean? Is there no need of family planning or does the Government want more procreation of children so that there may be increase in the numbers of the terrorists? Family Planning is a very important issue but the amount on this head has been reduced?

The budget for the Home Affairs, law and order etc. is Rs. 259.1 crores this year against the previous year's amount of Rs. 248.94 crores. So there is an increase of only 2.5 per cent in the budget for this year but in actual sense there is a reduction in the allotment if we take the price-rise into account which has increased by 13-14 per cent this year.

Further, we take the data of Industry and Mining. Last year, it was Rs. 17.52 crores, which has been reduced to Rs. 15.71 crores this year. The Government always claims that it is giving much weightage to agriculture, but the amount allocated for the major and minor irrigation under the Head of Capital outlay has been reduced to Rs. 44.87 crores while it was Rs. 52.01 crores during the last year. Thus almost in every sphere there is a reduction in this year's allotment against that of the previous year. For instance, the amount allocated for the flood-control is Rs. 10 crores against the last year amount of Rs. 23 crores, for Art and culture Rs.3.3 crores against Rs. 3.6 crores, for urban development Rs. 5.75 crores against Rs. 9.48 crores, for Housing Rs. 14.39 crores against Rs. 17.29 crores and for public works Rs. 7.15 crores against Rs. 11.81 crores. I am referring to these data in order to emphasise as to how lightly this budget has been prepared, as a 'Munim' maintains his ledger. No one took trouble to give due consideration as to what priority should be given to which subject.

We have been observing this practice since long that the President's address to the Parliament and the Finance Minister's budget speech invariably covers the policies of the Government for the next year. The same is observed also in case of the Governor's address to the Vidhan Sabha and the State Finance Minister's budget speech. Though there is Governor in Punjab but his Address is missing in this Budget. Anyhow the Finance Minister's budget speech should essentially contain the Government's priorities which is no where in this budget. This budget does not contain any reference of the Former Prime Minister's assurance regarding providing employment to one lakh persons every year. Contrarily a ban on the recruitment has been imposed. What happened to that promise? I would like to know the reason of his silence over the issue of S.Y.L. in the entire budget speech. He in must have clarified the Government's policy regarding the S.Y.L. for which there had been an accord with Shri Longowal. What are the reasons of destroying that project over which crores of rupees have been spent? The construction work is at halt even in that part which comes under Haryana. Soil is filling again in the canal which was dug after spending crores of rupees. Thus crores of rupees have gone waste without any use.

Would the hon. Minister be pleased to state the House about the Thein Dam project. When it is going to be completed? Due to centre's indifferent attitude the Thein Dam

is not being constructed as rapidly as it should be and as a result of this slow process the target of supplying Ravi water to Vyas and there from to Sutlej could not have been achieved and the result is that the whole water which should have been used for India soil making fertile and trees, is being supplied to Pakistan. Not a single word has been said by him regarding that dam as to why it is not being completed soon. Though the nature provided us water yet our soil is thirsty. Due to this reason, today the economy of Punjab is almost on the verge of decay. Once upon a time the per capita income in Punjab was much more than the other States. Today, most of the industries like Rice Mills, woollen and Spinning Mills etc. in Punjab are closing. Due to the prevailing situation in Punjab, the traders of other States do not supply their goods to Punjab censing loss to the business there. Besides there, a new trend has also emerged that the trucks sent to Punjab from other places are taken to unknown place. It is said that the militants stop these trucks and took them to some unknown places. As far as, I know 33 trucks have been lost uptill now. There is another side also of the picture. A truck owner boldly accepted the challenge and went to sell his goods in that state and he sold his goods there without any difficulty. Actually, most of the trucks are abducted in the midway in the name of terrorists by the robbers, fraudulents and the criminals having political patronage. Hence the traders of the other provinces hesitate to send their goods to Punjab. All these incidents must be investigated through the CBI This is a large scale scandal which is being committed in the name of militants only the CBI enquiry can reveal the facts. Vajpayeeji also referred to the abduction of trucks. These incidents have been taking place for the last so many days. Kidnapping cases have also become the usual practice in Punjab. As per my information, 30-40 kidnapping cases have taken place. It is upto the Government whether it denies or verifies the incidents. These kidnappings include the maternal cousin of the Punjab Police Chief, Shri D.S. Manger, the brother of the District Magistrate of Majitha district, Shri Paramjit Singh Gill, the brother of the S.P. of Sangrur, Shri S.S. Bhullar, two brothers of the Bombay Police Commissioner, Shri Charam Singh Azad and a near relative of Shri Sandhu. These kindnappings are done by the militants either for ransom or for the release of the colleagues who are in jails. Such incidents are taking place frequently in Punjab.

Now, I would like to say something about the cancellation of the elections in Punjab. The Congress has always treated Punjab politically. They have seen it in the light of the interest of their party only. Nation is above the party. But the policy of the congress is the party first and the natlon afterwards instead of the country first and the party afterwards.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out that through this budget the Government would be able to strengthen Punjab neither from the point of view of security nor economic prosperity. There is neither any reference with regard to the rehabilitation of the migrants of Punjab nor any mention about improving the law and order situation there. There is no indication about these problems in this budget. I am sorry to state that whenever any attempt was made to restore normally in Punjab though you gave a thought to it the Central Government did not show any encouragement and retracted and the problems grew from bad to worse and at history stands evidence to it. I would like to cite an example. Rajiv-Longowal accord took place. Dates were fixed for settlement but till now this accord could not be implemented and it is lying as it was. It resulted in allegation against you that you retract from your commitments.

Elections were held in Punjab and Mr. Barnala became Chief Minister. The then Prime Minister stated that mother India (Bharat Mata) has attained victory. After that, hon. President praised Barnala during his address. Which is not done in ordinary course. Four months later In a statement made in the House by the then Minister of Home Affairs it was stated they the same Mr. Barnala was stated the most dishonest per-

[Sh. Madan Lai Khurana]

son whereas four months ago he was compared with Ranjit Singh and his administration. The same Mr. Barnala was dismissed after three months because you had the elections of Haryana before you. You wanted to win the elections, though you would not. Keeping in view the election of Haryana you took the step to dismiss the Government of Punjab. As a result of it the people of Punjab lost their faith on you. Elections for Punjab were again declared but that too was postponed.

You are cancelling the elections only because if the elections are held in time, the Congress Party would not participate in it. But you have committed a mistake. Now you want to set it right from the point of view of your own party and bring Congress in the race of the elections. Therefore, you intend to cancel the election.

On April 21, an all party meeting was held in Chandigarh which was attended by P.C.C Chief Shri Beant Singh, Members belonging to the left parties, Members of Janata Dal, and by us. All of them decided that if had to fight election, they would do so unitedly and if they were to boycott, they would do so unitedly. All of them stated to fight elections unitedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All would either fight the election or boycott it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): We would unitedly fight the terrorists, and would not fight ourselves.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The motto was also to isolate the terrorists. The Meeting was held on April 21.After taking decision in the meeting they met the President, the Election Commission. The Members belonging to the Cogress party also in it and all unitedly state that election should be held in Punjab after June 20. I am underlining it, because election was being held all over the country. The date for June 20 was fixed only because they were to get adequate time for security arrangements. The memorandum given bears the date June 20. The other point mentioned therein was that the candidates should be provided security. These two points were made in it. Had the President and the Election Commission conceded to these two issues it was sure that all the parties would have liked to participate in the election. After the decision taken at the Chandigarh meeting, this next meeting was held wish the President and the Election Commission. As a result of this meeting the date for election in Punjab was fixed as June 22 by the Election Commission at instance of the delegation in which Congress was also represented. After it the situation took a turn. The Congress High Command decided not to participate in the election. Thus, they betra the decision the meeting which was attended by the President of the P.C.C. and thus boycott the elections not withstanding the fact that it was decided that in the event of boycotting the election they would do so collectively, therefore, I want to say that they gave importance to their party. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the decision for holding election on June 22 was taken unanimously by the entire delegation, the History of which is before you and on the 20th when the election.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 44 minutes for your party, and there are 3 members to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I will take some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am ready, if others do not object.....

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:I would speak in brief. You are liberal in giving time.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three and half hours have been fixed for this debate, out of which 44 minutes have been allotted to your party.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : My submission is that by postponing the election, the Congress Party took care of its own

interest, but it did not estimate the extent of loss it caused to Punjab. After the decision of the Government the Punjab Governor Shri Malhotra spoke out that he fought two wars but he never met with such a humiliation. He was betrayed, kept in the dark and was let down.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that it seams to me that the Akalis may come under the pressure of militants and may boycott election in Punjab. If they do not fight election, this election would become meaningless. Five groups of Akalis were ready to participate in the election. It is right that Mr. Mannhad suggested regarding referendum which could be weeded out at the political level but not by making any law. All the five Akali Dals and all other parties were taking apart in that election. But a day before you postponed the election because the Congress was not participating in it. Now if the Akalis are Boycotting the election, what will be the meaning of the election? There was election fraud in Kashmir and the terrorism spread there. I feel that is the people of Punjab feel that they are being humiliated, insulted and are not being relied upon, they will react and thus we would be giving an opportunity to the militants to raise propaganda against us.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my submission is that if one is not invited to a dinner he may feel a little about it but if some body has been invited and the dinner has been served before him and he gets ready to enjoy it and then at once the dinner is removed before he enjoys it, how much he would feel about it, this is how Punjab has been treated. After the declaration for election such a dish was served and when the last date was over and when on the day of polling the dish (box) was to be enjoyed, it was removed.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not a day, after rather a day before.....

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Yes, Sir, one day before the vote that was withdrawn from there which caused anger among them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it appears to me that by cancelling the election in Punjab today, we are taking it to its earlier position. The endeavour for bringing all in the national mainstream and the efforts made till now, will go in vain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to State that the beginning has been dangerous because when any other party forms a Government at the Centre and it finds the probability of any other party forming a Government in a particular State it can cancel the elections due in that State by bringing a Bill in the same way. Thus, any election to be held in any State can be cancelled. It is a dangerous beginning going to take place through this Bill. I think this is going to be a sign of interrogation in the federal structure of our country. I want to say the Congress Government is playing a very dangerous game.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been mentioned in its objects and that it has been pointed out here that on account of law and order problems the elections in Punjab are going to be cancelled. As Mr. George Fernandes had rightly stated the other day in the House that one Home Minister told* ..that the law and order situation in Punjab was improving. Now you say today that elections are being cancelled there due to the law and order problem.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AD COMPANY AFFAIRES (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, it is the convention of the House that we do not mention about the discussion held in * attached to various Ministries. So I request that the words,* be expunged from the proceedings.

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* Not recorded

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Such statements have been published in several newspapers which I am referring to.On many occasions you have given such statements which have appeared in many papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khurana, you are pointing out it in your second thougth. Your "...." words will not be recorded

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Congress has repeated it several times. Now I would like to state migrants from Kashmir are living in a very distressed condition and are disappointed like the migrants from Punjab it is very unfortunate that refugees from Punjab and Kashmir have been leading a hillish life in Delhi and in other parts of the country for the last several years. They are compelled to become refugees in their own country. No provision has been made for them in this budget. I would like to submit that the Government should declare its policy about Punjabi migrants at once. But the Govt. has neither yet declared its polity, nor it has made any provision for them in the budget also.

Sir, through you, I want to make a request that when Minister of Home Affairs or any other minister, who replies the debates should inform the House specifically as to when the Punjab election will be held which are now being cancelled. If you make such an announcement in the House, people of punjab will feel consolation and peace in their mind. If you postpone the Punjab Election for an indefinite person, you will face hardships in restoring normalcy in Punjab for which we are trying and all our efforts, made till go in vain. Our hole functioning will go waste and it will have no value. So I would like to request the minister that while replying to the debate, he should announce straight away the exact date for the Punjab election. thanks.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairmen, Sir, it is with a feeling of cheerlessness despondency that I also rise to speak on the Bill chancelling the General Elections in Punjab and also on the Budget here today. Year after year this vital function of the State Legislative Assembly has been performed by us here and that too casually. During the last eight years, the State Legislative Assembly within whose domain this function legitimately falls has had an opportunity to discuss the Budget only twice.

The framers of the Constitution provided that a Proclamation regarding President's rule could be extended beyond a period of one year only if two specific conditions were fulfilled and those conditions were that of Emergency being there or the Election Commission's certifying about its inability to hold the elections. In the case of Punjab, the Constitution has had to be amended as many as six times to extend the notifications of October, 1983 and May, 1987. At present this outer period stands at five years without the two conditions that I have just referred to.

None of us can be proud of this inglorious development, rather an aberration in Indian democracy. Today, Punjab continues to reel under terrorists violence. It has continued to do so for the last ten years. The period of ten years is not a small period, even in the history of nations. Sitting here today, we cannot imagine the plight of Punjabis. The brave hard-working, once exuberent people, fun-loving and boisterous the eternal guardians of the nation's western border, are today broken and a forturn lot.

Enough has been spoken about the Punjab's condition in the past. All of us have termed this problem as a national problem from time to time. I think it is veritably so. Its repercussions have been felt in many parts of the country. Its adverse impact on the unity and integrity of the country is well-known. Alive to this problem, we have always expressed the desire to have a national approach to the problem. But I am sorry that we have never given a chance to ourselves to consider the problem that way, shorn of narrow political partisan considerations. Sir, over the years, both in and outside

the Parliament, we have vied with each other in apportioning blame, never pausing to introspect, deriving a sort of satisfaction of scoring a debating point over each other. Sir, hile we have been basking in this complacency, Punjab has inexorably been sliding fathoms in an ocean of chaos.

I was sorry that today the hon. Member, Mr. Khurana, who initiated the debate, though dwelt at length on the economic ills of Punjab, yet when it came to the political part, he again launched a diatribe against the Congress. I want to avoid doing the same but to set the records straight, I want to remind him that it is the Congress which has always sought others' cooperation. He referred to the Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord. The then Congress President, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, signed the Accord. It was a bold historic decision. Exceptionally peaceful elections followed that because at that time Rajiv Gandhi had said that what mattered for the Congress was not a momentary or a transitional victory in one election but what mattered for the Congress was that the light of democracy keeps alive in the country.

Sir, Akali Dal came to power. We know what happened. It failed to rise to the occasion, it failed to size up to responsibilities of the Government. It was rocked by the internal dissensions and there was a vertical split. After the split, we still endeavoured to give support to Shri Barnala. Yes, we referred to his Governrment in the Presidential Address.

17.00 hrs.

We went all out to support the Government. But the Government lacked the political will to fight terrorism. I do not want to repeat what we have been saying in the past. But since that subject was touched, I will make a reference to it. Some ministers in the Barnala Government started courting terrorists. There was a reign of terror let loose once again in the State. A wonderful opportunity that was provided to us in the form of elections was missed. Why they have faulted is again history. The party of Shri Khurana had been exchanging views and notes with the Government. We know as to what reasons and what internal contradictions, deficiencies and weaknesses were there in Barnala Government which led to the nonfulfilment of the Award.

The Centre, because of the failings of the Barnala Government, had to take action in the form of an unpleasant and difficult decision to promulgate the President's rule. The results that flowed from that action were again before us. All religious places including the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the *sanctum sanctorium* of the sikh faith which were defiled and desecrated by irreligions use, were freed of impious elements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you please continue after the statement of the Home Minister. Now the Home Minister will make a statement regarding the induction of Army in aid to civil authorities in certain districts of Assam.

17.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Induction of Army in aid to civil authorities in certain d stricts of Assam

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.B. CHAVAN): I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of the House that at the request of the Government of Assam, the Army is providing aid to civil authorities in certain districts of the State.

It may be recalled that President's Rule was imposed in the State of Assam on 27.11.1990 and the State Assembly was dissolved. After the dissolution of the ninth Lok Sabha, elections were held to the Parliament in the State of Assam as elsewhere in the country. Simultaneously, elections were also held to the State Assembly and with the constitution of the new State Assembly, a

[Sh. S.B. Chavan]

popular Government with Shri Hiteswar Saikia as Chief Minister assumed office on 30.6.1991. The very next day, the ULFA kidnapped 14 persons serving the Central and State Governments and the ONGC including a Russian Mining Engineer.

This incident of kidnapping was followed by an escalation in the violent activities such as extortion, kidnapping, assault and murder. The State Government made every effort to secure the release of the kidnapped persons and even released about 500 ULFA activists detained under the TADA. Despite this generous gesture on the part of the State Government, the ULFA continued to increase the demand and pressed for the release of several detenus who were facing very serious charges. The Chief Minister had all the time been making efforts to secure the release of the hostages. Shri Bipul Mahanta, former President of the Assam Yuba Chatra Parishad and self-proclaimed Convenor of the Amnesty International who mediated on this issue, was killed by the ULFA. They also killed Shri T.S. Raju, Assistant Executive Engineer of the ONGC displaying utter disregard to human life. Earlier, they had killed the Russian Mining Engineer who was one of the 14 kidnapped persons.

The Government of Assam felt that the situation had become very grave. They felt that a larger induction of forces was necessary to deal with the situation and, therefore, to control the situatidn, bring confidence to people and to restore law and order, the State Government requisitioned Army in aid to civil authorities to operate against the ULFA extremists in the following districts:-

(1) Jorhat

(2) Dibrugarh

(3) Tinsukia

(4) Sibsagar

(5) Nagaon

(6) Sonitpur

(7) Golaghat

(8) Dhemaji

(9) North Lakhimpur

The State Government informed the Central Government through two wireless messages dated 5.9.91 that requisition had already been sent to the Sub-area Commander for Army help in aid to civil authorities in the above districts. The Chief Minister, through his letter dated the 8th September, 1991 addressed to me, requested that instructions may be issued for immediate deployment of Army in aid to civil authorities. I discussed the situation in Assam with all the MPs from Assam individually and collectively.

It was decided to accept the request of the Government and the Chief Minister of Assam to provide assistance of Army in aid of civil authorities in the specified districts of Assam. The Army has, accordingly, moved in Assam in the above districts and has started to assist in operations against the ULFA.

The Chief Minister has referred to the links of the ULFA with Bangladesh, Pakistan and China. He has informed me that his reference is based on the interrogation of some of the ULFA activists and some documents recovered from them. These countries have denied any such involvement.

The Govt. of India are deeply concerned about the continued detention of three officers of Assam Government including and IAS officer and four ONGC officers. I trust that they will be released soon and normalcy in the State will be restored early to enable us to withdraw the Army.

17.05 hrs.

CANCELLATION OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN PUNJAB BILL - *CONTD.*
PUNJAB BUDGET 1991-92-GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB) - *CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bansal, you can continue your speech.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, referring to the conditions which led to the promulgation of President's Rule in Punjab in 1987, I was referring to an aria of optimism and hope that pervaded the environment because of the clearance of the religious places of all irreligious elements. But, Sir, something went wrong thereafter. Forces inimical to India got active again and the unchecked flow of sophisticated weapons led to a situation where the well-planned and the imaginatively executed actions like Operation Black Thunder were frittered away. Ever thereafter, Sir, a bruised and lacerated Punjab has been unable to heal its wounds and it is presently on the threshold of developing the dreaded gangerene.

Sir, there is no ready-made formula which anybody could suggest today for solving the Punjab problem, but we all agree that a beginning has got to be made. In the past, all-Party meetings were used to apportion blame. Sir, I think for making a new beginning, we have got to sink all our differences now because only then can we save Punjab and we can save the country from disintegration. Sir, I feel a Joint Front has to be constituted, as Vajpayeeji said, not to fight amongst ourselves, but to fight the forces inimical to the country. Sir, I feel the Akalis too can be encouraged to take up cudgels against terrorism. We have got to appreciate the difficulty, the situation in which they buckled under pressure and announced the boycott of elections and here, if my interpretation of the Akali Dal declaration is correct, I would like to remind Shri Khurana that their decision was not to boycott any election in the future, their decision was to boycott the election which was scheduled on 30th September and that also would have led to a very difficult situation. Shri Khurana accused the Congress of backing out of a decision arrived at along with other parties to swim or swink together, to either fight elections together or boycott elections together. Sir, he referred to certain dates. I would only like to refresh his memory as to what really transpired or what was the crux of the decision arrived at. All parties were unanimous in demanding that elections to Punjab should be delinked from the rest of the country. That demand was made. What did the Government of the day then do? They followed this technically, but not in spirit. The elections in the whole of the country were fixed for the 20th of May. Then, a day was fixed for elections in Punjab which may have been a month away from that day. But an inordinately long period of campaigning was given. We expressed our concern that fixing of such a long time for campaigning would not be in the national interest and it would create problems. I am sorry that we proved to be right on that score. Over 20 candidates were killed in that inordinately long period and some candidates could not dare to come out of their houses for campaigning. That was the environment which was prevailing there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: When you went to visit the hon. President, you were given the date 21 June or not?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When the representatives of your party visited the honourable President, you definitely might be knowing the details of the discussion held with the President and I do not want to go in that. But it is a fact that at that time also the Congress was of the opinion that conducting election at this time would not be in the national interest because the atmosphere, which should have been created before election, has not been created.

[Sh. Pawan Kumar Bansal]

SHRI KALKA DAS: What decision was taken there?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You are aware of the meetings and the decision taken in this regard. We had already said at that very moment that election should be delinked and should be held meaningfully. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

That was the stand the Congress Party took. We felt that it was not a prudent step to call for elections at that time, because the necessary ground work was not done and an environment was not created where free and fair elections could be held and where the people of Punjab could have gone to the polling stations to cast their votes fearlessly. That is the essential element for the success of any democracy.

Sir, unmindful of our pleas, the Government of the day, then, went ahead with the elections, and in doing so, they betrayed some puerile intransigence, because it was a desperate act on their part. While going out of the office, the Government wanted to boast of some imaginery success of having called elections in Punjab. As a result, many candidates lost their lives. During this inordinately long period of five months, when the elections have been postpone a number of times, how counter-productive the process has been is before us all to see. The Bill which has now been introduced, I think, is the right step in that direction. This has been opposed on various grounds. I am happy today that Mr. Khurana did not really raise constitutional issues, but at the time of introduction, it was said so. I do not want to go into that sort of debate, but I do want to submit that the Bill is fully within the powers given to the Parliament by the Constitution. As has been said by the hon. Minister while moving the Bill for the consideration of the House, it is a one-time measure. It is a specific response to an extraordinary situation that prevails today.

There was an option before the Government to amend the Representation of the People's Act. We did not do it because that could have been on the statute for all times to come and any officer or any authority at any given point of time, could have misused that provision in the future. We have avoided to do that and the Government has come before the Parliament urging it to exercise its collective will to take a decision to this effect. This Bill violates no provision of the Constitution. It runs counter to no decision of Parliament such as extension of President's rule or fixing a particular time for holding the elections.

It has been specifically said in the statement of objects and reasons that the elections are being postponed for the time being, and an effort would be made to hold the elections as soon as possible. I also feel that we cannot wait for all the time to come. We cannot really wait for an ideal situation. We cannot wait for complete normalcy to return to hold the elections. The new Governor has taken over the charge. Certain developments indicating an improvement of the situation are before us.

Fight against terrorism has ben given a greater impetus. There is also some perceptible change in the attitude of hitherto militant groups and the rally held at Chandigarh by the All India Sikh Students Federation does give us some indication of their desire to follow a peaceful political approach. We do hope that the new Governor who has just occupied Raj Bhavan and the Civil Secretariat, who is a person of experience, would soon be able to update himself with the latest developments, with the new intricacies and take steps to ease the situation and build some confidence in the minds of the people, thereby paving way for fresh elections in the State.

I would very briefly like to turn to the Budgetary proposals. A long spell of President President's rule uncertain conditions in Punjab have had an adverse impact on the State's economy. I am grateful to Mr. Khurana for his support on that score. It is cred-

itable still that despite unsettled conditions there, Punjab still accounts for sixty per cent of the nation's food kitty. Despite this, the Punjab farmers' condition is far from being satisfactory. Toil and sweat are all that the Punjab farmers know. Something has got to be done to make farming remunerative for them.

Punjab pays the price demanded for Coal needed for running thermal plants. The State exchequer pays for the subsidised electricity and the benefit of this goes to those States to which the food grains produced from Punjab go. I do not want to sound chauvinistic on this score. But when enhanced royalty on coal is demanded and granted, I suppose, there is no reason why we have a situation where the people of Punjab feel a sense of discrimination being meted out to them. And we know, such discriminatory feelings give rise to many other problems.

Look at the plight of Punjab today. To check fissiparous activities and to fight terrorism which is nothing short of a long-drawn, undeclared war launched by an unfriendly neighbour, Punjab has to pay for the forces deployed to check the situation there. You cannot compare the situation with the request of a State seeking para military forces from the Centre to fight the law and order problem simplicities. I want to take this opportunity to impress upon the Government that the Centre should take on itself to bear all the expenditure on deployment and management of para military forces in the State just like it does in the case of armed forces on the borders.

Keeping in view the difficult situation through which Punjab is passing today, there is rather strong case for providing additional financial assistance to the State so that its economy boosts up offering new income-generating avenues to the youth, the wayward youth can be won back to the national mainstream. They will then no longer provide a recruiting source to the terrorists.

With the land holdings having shrunk and farming having reached its peak, there is need to expand the industrial base of Punjab. I urge upon the Government that counselling centres be set up where youth are given all assistance, all help to set up small self-employment generating units and all loans etc. are made available without any bureaucratic hassles.

Sir, though Punjab has so far been leading in power generation, there are now signs of alarm visible on this front also. The State's need for electric power is expected to go up from 3286 MW in the current year to 4482 MW in the next five years. The commissioning of the third phases of Gurunanak Dev Thermal Plant at Bhatinda and of the Ropar Thermal Power Plant has been delayed because of lack of resources. I am not mentioning the names of those projects because of the time-constraint imposed by you, Sir, but the work on various other projects is going on at a snails pace only because of lack of resources. In the larger national interest, the Government should help Punjab in this matter because by helping Punjab the country would be helping itself.

Sir, economic development is vital for the long term solution of the Punjab problem. The Government's basic concern must be to raise the quality of life of the youth. I have already referred to the need to create more jobs. But I would also like to emphasise that something has got to be done; more allocations have got to be made for education, sports, art and culture.

Before concluding, I would only very briefly refer to the fact that apart from food production, a very major contribution which Punjab has made for the national cause is recruitment to the Armed Forces. Punjab has had the largest number of serving personnel who have laid down their lives, who have brought glory to this country. Today, a large number of ex-Servicemen are finding themselves idle in Punjab. Therefore, something has got to be done for their rehabilitation. You have got to take them into confidence to fight terrorism there. I am sure, if the

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Government take some concrete measures in that direction, we will meet success.

Finally, I have to say that Punjab is a land of Gurus, Saints and Seers. It is a living testament of history and Ancient Indian history. Treasures from Archaeological excavations in Punjab do pride to the National Museum at New Delhi. But an evil spirit seems to have cast its eye on Punjab. I am sure that with a concerted effort, we can fight that evil spirit so that Punjab regains its pristine glory and this country overcomes a seemingly insurmountable problem which has defied solution all these years.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is considering the Punjab problem. I will fail to discharge my national responsibility if I do not say few words about the questions raised by some members. My opinion about Punjab is not a new one, it has long roots in the past. My opinion is that Punjab problem can not be solved with the help of oppressive measures. I am also of the opinion that a blunder has been committed from the beginning in realizing the Punjab problem and finding the solution thereto. I am sorry that the same is being repeated and I am sorry to know that a man like Shri Chavan, who is a man of experience and who is very well familiar with the politics and national problems has been compelled to bring this bill. This was not the reason for this compulsion as there was no alternative left but the reasonsthis compulsion was the way in which the Election Commission has postponed the election.

After a long time I want to say it today that in my opinion the decision to postpone the election is the second serious national crime after the 'Blue Star'. This operation has diverted the people of Punjab from the main stream for ever. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to inform this House and the country that till the last moment I had been emphasising that this blunder must not be committed. I rejected very politely the advice given to me in this respect by the big officials who hold high posts in the Govt. and in the State. The decision was taken suddenly when election was to be held within 24 hours. I came to know through newspapers only. One day before I had suggested to wait for new Government to come. If you are in a hurry, let the same Govt. take the oath and they should take the decision.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, A lot of discussion usually is held here on the issue of secessionism. In my opinion, it will not be proper if the Govt. wants to enact some law or wants to promulgate and ordinance imposing a ban on Secessionists from taking part in elections. I think, this step will prove suicidal. Postponement of election will also be another suicidal step. I do not want to comment on Election Commission. I do not want to repeat that others have already said. The Election Commission postponed the election at 2. 00 A.M. without informing the Govt. or anybody else so the present Government has to bear the moral responsibility of its deeds. It is very strange a to how the Election Commission could muster so much courage as it could postpone the elections suddenly.

Shri Ataiji is present here and he is a witness when Annadurai has delivered a speech continuously for one and a half hour and the whole House heared it silently. It is another matter that we opposed him and told him that their policy, their programmes, their thinking are not in national Interest but none has demanded to get him out of the House. None demanded to seize his citizenship. I want to know as to how the Government can have the right to seize somebody's citizenship? Each citizen who contests the election takes oath of the Constitution that he has faith in the constitution and maintain the propriety of the Constitution. If some of our members, who are now in power, think that violation of the constitution is a very serious crime, then I would like to know as to how many Artioles of the constitution are still being violated even today. Where is that

right to equality where is the right to equal treatment with harijans and adivasis in our country? Our directive principles, which are the guiding principles of our Constitution, are being continuously violated. But no Prime Minister resigns, no Home Minister resigns, none looses his citizenship. When we can continue with the Prime Minister who violates the Constitution after taking the oath of the Constitution, why we cannot contest the election after taking the oath of the Constitution. If it is changed it will prove a blunder.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the honourable minister to Home Affairs to think even now and not to commit more mistakes in future. We have time even now to hold election in Punjab. Just now one honourable member was saying that economic assistance should be provided to Punjab. It was the opinion of one hon. Member that you have to try for economic development of Punjab if you want to fight with terrorism, I think if terrorism is going on in Punjab due to lack of economic development, it would have grown in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa a long back. However economic development should take place in Punjab. But it is our misfortune that we have a little knowledge about the problems in Punjab. Sir, if we do not want to go into the deep of the problems, we can not find their solution. Hundreds year before Guru Nanakdev once said "Ek onkar sat nam". But Hindu-Sikhs are fighting there itself in the name of religion. They are killing each other. This is the question of sentiments. That is why, Atalji was saying just now that Hindu and Sikhas are not fighting, but such sentiments are being created. I would like Shri Atalji to think seriously as to why these sentiments are being created. Hindu society was believed to accomodate every one. But what happened it today. I have repeated several times and it is also written outside the House "There is only one goal to reach the God". Many of our philosophers suggested various ways in this regard but our society is getting disintegrated in the name of religion. We must hold discussion about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will have to win the hearts of the people of Punjab to solve the Punjab problem. We have to remove frustration and the ill feelings which they have in their hearts. They think that justice has not been done with them, they have not been treated equally. I do not say that all this is true, many things may be based on doubts. But we are going to strengthen those doubts by passing this bill today. Doubts have been increased due to the postponement of election. If the Government commits mistake of passing the another bill or promulgates some ordinance, we will definitely loose the people of Punjab from us. How can bear silently the disintegration of the country before our eyes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge you to use the dignity of your post, your powers and your honour to guide and direct the Government in proper way. We can not change the society by using powers of the authority. To change the mentality of the people there, we must understand the feelings and sentiments of the people. We must try to heal the hearts of the people which have been hurt. By repeatedly asserting our power and influence, we are just displaying our ineffioiency and helplessness. The Punjab problem can be solved if we try to unite the people of the country with strength and force peaceful means I do not want to comment whether these elections would have proved dangerous for the country or otherwise. One hon.member had commented that the step had been taken to achieve cheap popularity but it should be remembered taken to achieve cheap popularity but it should be remembered that some people had opposed the holding of poll not only in Punjab but in Assam also. The people who were responsible for the postponement of poll in Punjab, opposed the elections in Assam also. But elections were held in Assam peacefully and successfully and people belonging to the same party emerged victorious. Mr. Chairman, Sir, one should admit one's mistakes openly and honestly, because we cannot construct bright future by repeating the past mistakes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should not allow the Government to repeat the name mistakes again. Therefore,I would like to request this house not to pass this Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: (Muzaffarpur) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a few submissions in respect of .he Demands for Grants which have been laid before the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as for the budget estimates the Government revenue which was Rs. 3779 crore during the last year, has now increased by Rs. 1621, this year. But the documents supplied to us do not make it clear as to where from this money has been received. Only this much has been mentioned in the Annual Financial Statement that in the previous year the non-tax revenue including interest receipts Dividends, Profits were the tune of Rs. 60 crore only whereas this year it has gone up to Rs. 1439 crore, has not been mentioned. I am at a loss to know the reason for such an enormous increase in the revenue. I have studied all the documents minutely but failed to find out a single sentence regarding its source. Previous year it was 60 crore before that year it was 74 crore and this year it is 1439 crore?

Secondly, in the statement, Finance Minister has submitted that the expenditure to be incurred on the revenue account is Rs. 4355 crore. I think this expenditure is up by Rs. 1700 crores as compared to the previous year. Last year the expenditure on revenue account was Rs. 2662 crores and this year it is Rs.4355 crores. Three documents have been supplied to us to provide information as to how this money is proposed to be spent. It has been reffered to at various places in the documents, but I would like to point out only two places more specifically.

First, on the page No. 7 of the Annual Financial Statement under the heading 'Energy' and subheading 'Electricity', it has been said that 1377 crore would be spent on it. Under the Demands for Grants, it has been mentioned. Under the heading 'S-12' Government proposes to spend a sum of Rs. 1377 crores and 37 lakh for energy as a non-plan expenditure. The situation is not understandable-Rs. 1400 crores have been procured from unknown sources and Rs. 1300 crores are proposed to be spent on 'electricity' and that too as a non-plan expenditure quota. It is clearly a misuse of funds.

In this way, we fail to understand the meaning of the Budget. You are showing 40% to 50% increase in the income and expenditure. You are showing the income through interest and expenditure You are showing the income through interest and expenditure is being shown in the field of electricity as a non-plan expenditure, after payment of salaries. We want to seek a clarification from the Government in this regard because I doubt that there is something wrong in the accounts, I am sorry to say that only three and a half hour has been allotted for this purpose. It is not your mistake because it has been fixed with the consent of all the members due to shortage of time. It also includes time for debate on the situation in Punjab. I am satisfied to note that the Hon. Minister is present in the House. Three days back the Kashmir problem was discussed here and that too in a very short period. That day the Hon. Home Minister was not present in the House. Only Finance Minister and his state Minister were present though he was feeling very uneasy that day, yet his presence in the house must be appreciated. I was disheartened to note the absence of the Home Minister in the House that day. Under the President's rule it is the duty of the Home Minister to understand and answer the problems in the House. I am happy to note that he is present in the House.

In the documents it has been stated that the legislative Assembly in Punjab was dissolved on May 11, 1987 and since then a period of four and a quarter years have passed and no poll could be held in Punjab and the proposed elections were also cancelled. If the Government continues its present attitude, perhaps there would be no representation of Punjab in Rajya Sabha also and then the whole administration would have to be run by police and bureaucracy. I would like to record my objection on one issue. A Parliamentary Committee, not a consultative Committee was constituted for dealing with the Punjab issue and I am a Member of that Committee. Now tomorrow

the session is going to be over and the Members of that Parliamentary Committee were present in Delhi. It would have been better if this Budget had been put forth before that Committee before the commencement of the Budget session. Then it would have been possible to hold some detailed discussion on it. It would have proved useful for the Government. Whatever Shri Chandra Shekhar has said in the House I agree with his views. Today we want answers to some questions, is it not a fact that before the 20th of this month when you made an announcement for postponing the election, on the 19th, the Chief Election Commissioner had announced through Radio and T.V.

[*English*]

About the decision to postpone the poll, there will be no change at all. There be no change at all in so far as the holding of the poll is concerned.

[*Translation*]

Poll will not be postponed under any circumstances. Had Shri T.N. Sheshan not made this declaration on the nineteenth? Had not the Governor of Punjab Shri Malhotra stated on Radio and Television on the 20th that all arrangements have been made for the security of all people and the people should cast their votes with courage and conviction without any fear. Then on the same night at quarter past three the Governor was awakened and told that the poll had been postponed; because the condition have been deteriorated. The poll is postponed and everything is off. According to an official estimate about one hundred crore rupees have been wasted during this process. I had been on my election campaigne. There was no escort with me throughout the whole election campaigne. We started our election meeting at 9.00 in the morning and it ended by 1200 hrs in the night. We continued our election campaign even on the day when terrorists slaughtered twenty five rail passengers. I was in Punjab that day and on the next day too. But on that day, the atmosphere in Punjab was very tense and we could not undertake the election campaigne. After that we carried out the election compaign for the next two days and saw the security arrangements there. How many policemen and Militarymen were deployed there. We observe all this. The elections were postponed and thus the country suffered a loss of rupees hundred crore. We want to know what are those circumstances which compared the Government to postpone the electron when Shri Sheshan had declared that the election will not be postponed under any circumstances and the Governor had asked the people to cast their votes boldly. Moreover, firstly you were not participating in the election and secondly you were forming the Government at the Centre and the Prime Minister had only a few hours to take oath. How all this had happened? It should be made cear in the House.

When the election was postponed pressure was put on the Governor, that he should not resign, but he resigned. Many Ex-Members of Parliament belonging to Congress Party and other people met him. The Governor told them that what was going on was wrong and he would not withdraw his resignation. I wrote a letter to General Malhotra, the then Governor, in which I mentioned that the decision he had taken was right and he should remain firm on that. He had tried to give affection to the people of Punjab. I wrote this letter on 27th June. He sent me a letter from Raj Bhawan on 7th July. I don't want to read it all, but will present only a few useful points here.

[*English*]

"In view of what had happened in connection with the elections in Punjab, I had no other alternative but to submit my resignation to the President.

How I wish we could have completed the election process.

It would have been a correct step towards solving the problem of Punjab."

[*Translation*]

There were the words of the person

[Sh. George Fernandes]

whom you relied upon so much and appointed as the Governor of Punjab. I would like to know whether the Minister of Home Affairs had consulted the Governor on this issue. Did anyone tell you how the situation has deteriorated and who is responsible for it, because the Chief Election Commission took the decision within eight to ten hours and surprised all of us. I would like to know about the role played by the Minister of Home Affairs and the Government in this regard.

Captain Amarinder Singh, the President of the Akali Dal Panthic has said about it in today's issue of "Hindu" and I want that the ruling party and the Minister of Home Affairs should read it and pay attention to it.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): You seem to be totally misconceived. I may inform that this is dealt, with by the law Ministry and not by the Home Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I thought that the Minister of Home Affairs is present here, because he is worried about the Punjab issue and will say something. I withdraw my words. I have no objection if the Minister of Law makes statement. Both are present. But I have objection that I was putting some questions before you...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Perhaps he wants to go.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I have to leave at 6 P.M

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: That is way I am insisting on your reading it because in my opinion, it is related to the problem of Punjab. It has been mentioned in the paper that with best steps were intended to be taken in a planned way by the Governor in Punjab to solve their problems. I shall not read it because there is lack of time. Today the problem of Punjab has become very critical and do not know whether any efforts are being made to solve the problem. But if the situation remains like this, it is not possible to predict where it will take us. We have seen the scene of terrorism in Punjab very closely. When we were in power, we met every person in the terrorist affected area and felt that something can be done to solve the problems of the people of Punjab. On the basis of my experience, I can say that 50% of the terrorism in Punjab has been created by the police and bureaucrats. I am ready to stand witness for it, anywhere. Such a situation has been created by the police and bureaucrats that there remains status quo. I have a letter signed by freedom fighter Shri Hansraj Mongia, businessman Shri Nirmal Kumar and Subedar Shri Gurdeep Singh Barar. The Minister of Home Affairs might have also received this letter because it relates to an incident in which two children of 16 to 21 years of age were killed on 27th December. It happened at Kukhrana bus stop near Ludhiana-the name of the children are Boby and Bitto. One of them is a Hindu and the other is a Sikh. These two children were coming in a car with Shri Satnam Singh. First of all their car was checked near dairy they were permitted to proceed towards Faridkot. When they reached at the bus stop their car was stopped by the police with torch light and without any inquiry they opened fire at the car. They started crying in the car, that we are honest persons, we are shopkeepers. Don't kill us. Then they were ordered to come out of the car. They came out of the car. The fire continued and the two children were shot dead inside the car.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the authenticity of this document?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am prepared to authenticate it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the authenticity of the document to say that the police

opened fire without any cause on a vehicle?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, this is an affidavit and I am prepared to authenticate it and lay* it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought that it is a letter but it is an affidavit.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter does not end here. The police committed brutality and killed two children and asked Satnam Singh to kneel down and come towards them. He was treated in such a manner that his turban is taken out and he was tied with that. Next day in the newspapers a statement on behalf of police authorities appear:-

[*English*]

"Two persons, Bobby and Bharpoor Singh, i.e. Bittoo, were killed by militants the previous night at Kukhrana village in Faridkot district."

[*Translation*]

This is the role of police. It is not the story of two children only. I can cite hundreds of such examples.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Are you confident that terrorists have not done this in guise of police? Have you satisfied yourself by making inquiry?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We are fully convinced. We belived in this document and we are saying this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say if the Home Minister has ever time to listen to me, I am ready to cite dozens of cases...

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I doubt that it is a very serious matter and I am sure that the Home Minister is taking due note of it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

One of the Railway employees at Kapurthaia was arrested in the same manner by the Poiice on the plea that he is a terrorist. Afterwards, the General Manager of Railway had to go to the police to save an honest boy from harassment. Four lakhs of rupees were demanded. His relatives working in Singapore and other countries had to come here and mortgaged their land, paperty, etc. and offered money to the police and got him released. Today he is working at Kapurthala. We are ready to tell you many such cases. We are very much disturbed due to the decision you have taken, the law you want to legislate and your intention to postpone the elections. This law would not be able to control the situation. But it will further deteriorate the situation in Punjab. That is why we are opposing it. We wish an immediate declaration of holding elections in Punjab. Today you have made us of nowhere. The Chief Elections Commissioner postponed the elections which were due before 25th September. The elections can not be held today. But the President's rule would be over on 11th November. Mr. Chairman, we would like that the Government should declare while bring this law, that the elections would be held in Punjab before 11th November and an elected Government would be formed in Punjab. I am going to conclude after putting forward two-three demands only.

1. We would like that the Government should provide security to all those who were the candidates in the last elections.

2. The Government is responsible for refunding the money spent by the people who were the candidates of the recognised political parties in the last elections and it should be refunded by the Government. The Government should also bear the extra expenditure to be made by the candidate or the political par-

* As the speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission, the document was not treated as laid on the Table

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ties contesting the Assembly or Lok Sabha elections as the ceiling on expenses has been fixed by the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, besides this we would like to urge upon the Government to initiate an action to curb the activities of police in Punjab immediately. Police-terrorism should be checked. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand that severe punishment should be given and cases should be filed against those who were the motivators of 1984 riots after the murder of Smt. Indira Gandhi and are moving in the country with honour and respect with police escort. A large number of men-women and boys belonging to Sikh community were killed in Delhi and other places of the country. The Government should take steps in this direction.

17.59 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Same is the case of police. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel distressed as the Hon. Home Minister has left the House before concluding my speech. Three days ago when the discussion on Special Protection Group was going on, I talked about Shri Rajdev Singh. The Home Minister ensured us to provide him police protection and asked us to send Shri Rajdev Singh to see him. I told that he will come tomorrow to see him. He could not meet him as the Home Minister had no time. Shri Rajdev Singh went to see the Home Minister many a time but no time, was available with him.

18.00 hrs.

The other day when he was given the time, he met the Hone. Home Minister, who after seeing him instructed his private Secretary on telephone to ring up the Police Commissioner as well as particular persons in Punjab for making immediate arrangements for the security of Shri Rajdeo Singh in Delhi as well as in Punjab. But till today morning when I had a talk with him, neither any security was provided to him by the Police Commissioner nor he received any message from the Police Commissioner. He himself contacted the Polices Commissioner on phone who told him that he had not received any such order/message from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the moment he gets it he would arrange security for him. Therefore, Shri Rajdeo Singh contacted his men in Punjab also and enquired about it. They too replied that they had not received any instructions or message from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had himself promised in this House that the security would be provided to him at once. But as yet it has not been done.

I demand from the Government and the Hon. Home Minister to provide security to him. We are ready to extend all co-operations the Government wishes from the opposition parties on the Punjab issue provided an announcement regarding holding elections there is made immediately. If it is not done, then we will vehemently oppose this Bill.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS(SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is nearing 6 o'clock, the House will have to take a decision on deciding to sit beyond 6 o'clock. It is my proposal. Since some lady Members have approached me and spoken to me about the discussion on the issue of atrocities on Women and they preferred that the discussion which is slotted for tomorrow may be taken up during the next Session, that being the situation, we could start the discussion on International Situation tomorrow at 1 o'clock. Before that let us take up the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. We could complete the Punjab debate, if possible, today itself. Let us sit up to 8 O'clock and complete it. If the House is agreeable to this proposal, then it would be good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you agree with this proposal that the time of the House be extended up to 8 o'clock?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): If we get an early opportunity, then we would accept this. That should be granted.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM: It would be granted.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we sat the other day upto 12.30. a.m. on the next day upto 1.30. a.m. Today again you are asking us to sit late.

[*English*]

MR.CHAIRMAN: Shall we take it that the time of House be extended up to 8 o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI(Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give an important information to this House. An hour before, I received an information on telephone while I was at my house that the D.D.A. officials had started demolishing a 300 years old Hanuman Temple located near Uphaar cinema in Green Park/Yusuf Sarai. As the news spread people began to assemble there. I, myself went there and controlled the mob, otherwise the tension would have increased there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say to any representative of the Government present in the House that on the one hand, they are passing a Bill for maintaining the status quo of all religious shrines as was upto 1947 and on the other hand a 300 year old temple, which does not create any obstruction in the traffic, was being demolished. Certainly, if this incident is not inquired into thoroughly, the tension will aggravate in the whole area of Green Park and Yusuf Sarai. And ultimately this tension will engulf whole Delhi. Therefore, it is my request to the Government's representative whoever is present here to collect full information and take necessary action immediately in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will look into the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution regarding the elections in Punjab and the Punjab Budget. One of the reasons of terrorism in Punjab is the unemployment among the Punjab youths I would like to say that Punjab is one of the best provinces of India, which provides food grains to the whole country and where the per-capita income is the highest. The Resolution for postponement of elections in Punjab has come from the Government and it is quite reasonable because the contesting candidates though not of the Congress Party as it was not participating in the elections, were being killed by the terrorists there. There was much terror even in the areas of Himachal Pradesh adjourning Punjab. Our friend Khurana Saheb has said that on 20th June, this and that had happened and that the Government was with Shri Beant Singh and he too was participating in the elections. But the condition put forward by the Congress Party to restore peace during the elections was not fulfilled. The candidates contesting elections incurred the expenses and some of them were killed. This is a serious offence, it can not be tolerated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the Members of the B.J.P. say that the Congress had signed the Longowal accord. But I would like to say that it was B.J.P. who firstly made an agreement with the Akali Dal. In 1977, when they formed the Government, Shri, Prakash

[Sh. Krishan Dutt Sultanpuri]

Singh Badal and Shri Barnala become the Ministers in the Government. As you know, then Barnala took Badal to Punjab where he was presented a 'Saropa'.

Shri Shanta Kumar was the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh at that time. He was also presented a 'Saropa'. All knows it but you tell us that such acts are done by the Congress party to get votes. I claim that no other Government can do so much work for the progress of Punjab as Congress Party has done. The works for development of Punjab done by the Congress party will be written in golden letters. Bhakhara Nangal dam was constructed which is very big dam and today it is working to bring prosperity in Punjab. It's foundation was laid by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. A railway coach factory was set up at Kapurthala in Punjab which is very big and people of Punjab were given employment in large number. All these achievements have been made by the Congress Party.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, B.J.P. men marched to Ayodhya. I say they should have marched towards Punjab, only then they would have come to know the facts. You should have marched from Amritsar in Punjab to Ayodhya instead of marching from Gujarat to Ayodhya. I think that Hindus and Sikhs are brothers. They are not fighting with each other. The views expressed here are wrong, that there is no peace and there is enmity between Hindus and Sikhs. It is not so. People of Punjab are very mature and they are not fighting. I believe they will take any step with wisdom. Our Government desires that this budget should be presented in Punjab Assembly and Punjab Assembly should pass it. But it can be done only when normalcy prevails there. We need co-operation of all parties to create normalcy. C.P. M.men have also worked hard to maintain peace there. If all parties had come together in maintaining peace in Punjab, as have come together through united front and if Communist and C.P.M. men cooperated, perhaps what is going on there today would not have happened. But today we are not in a position to hold elections in Punjab. We request the Government to announce an early election in Punjab so that Government of the people may be formed and assembly may pass the next budget.

Nalagarh and Ropar are adjacent to my Constituency. I want to inform the Central Government that we get. 2.7% royalty for electricity. Punjab has got much co-operation from the people of Himachal Pradesh. We get less royalty for the electricity produced at Bhakhra Dam. Joginder Nagar is a big electricity producing centre but Himachal Pradesh does not get any share from there. When Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana were formed, it was decided that Himachal would get 7.19 crore as royalty under an agreement between Central Government and Himachal Pradesh Government. According to that agreement, a large amount of money is due from Punjab through Central Government which should be provided to Himachal Pradesh. People of Himachal Pradesh are economically weaker due to this reason only. Your party has won on the name of Ayodhya and your Government is compromising with the big industrialists. Many big hydroelectricity schemes have been formulated. All the rivers that flow through the state have capacity to produce 20 thousand megawatt alectricity. If these schemes are expanded the people will be benefited. All the developments that has took place is due to Himachal Pradesh only, but the people of Himachal Pradesh are facing a lot of difficulties. When there is heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh, many areas of Punjab submerge due to flood and the people there become homeless.

The provision, for harijans and adivasis in Punjab budget, should be enhanced. Their backlog should be fulfilled in the services. People should be provided protection there. Along with it, those who come from Pakistan, for imparting training should be kept under survilance. Today, Punjab is a very small area. One day the constituency which I represent was also a part of Punjab. No sympathy should be shown with the people who are responsible for extremism and spreading

hatred there. Those who are traitors should not be handled liberaly. If we want to keep Punjab united, and if we have to hold elections in Punjab then we all should prepare a time bound programme to maintain the unity and integrity of this country and election should be held accordingly. I request the Government to hold the elections in Punjab as soon as the situation improves. One of our hon'ble members has mentioned that officials are very inefficient in Punjab. They are not working properly but I want to congratulate those officials on behalf of myself and this House. Those who are working in Punjab today know very well that under what circumstances they are working. I request you to provide them full protection. We should not comment on them in any way.

In the end, I support this budget and I also support the Law Minister's is proposal to cancel the elections. I hope that people of Punjab will participate in the elections and will continue their struggle for maintaining the integrity and unity of country. I conclude with these words.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the Bills that we are discussing now is cancellation of the notification for General Elections in Punjab. Sincerely speaking, the elections in Punjab would have been held long before, but it could not be held due to the inactivity that the successive Government in the Centre had indulged in. Many a time in the past, the people had given sufficient indication that they favour democratic process to be restored in Punjab. They had unequivocally declared that they are against terrorism; they are against those forces who are trying to destablise Punjab: they are against those evil forces who are killing the innocent people, who are molesting the womenhood of our country in Punjab; who are extorting money; who are indulging in anti-social activities in the name of so-called political objective that they have in their mind. Many times in the past, we came very near to a solution of the Punjab problem. I can not foreget that. After the Blue Stare Operation, the Central Government could arrive at an agreement with the then leader of Akali Dal, Shri Longowal. Rajiv-Longowal Accord was signed. Elections were held on the basis of that Accord. The terrorists gave call for bycotting the elections. But, people in large numbers came, took part in the election, gave a clear verdict against the secessionist activities of the terrorists. Still we could not avail ourselves of that opportunity. The Government that was formed due to the exercise of that democratic option, that Government did take certain measures. That Barnala Government sent police into the Golden Temple to vacate the holy place from the occupation of terrorists. And that Government also faced rough treatment from the Government at the Centre. The Central Government dissolved that Government. The moderate Akalis did not get an encouragement from the Central Government or the party that ruled the Centre. So, many a time in the past, opportunities came and we ourselves destroyed them there is no doubt that Elections should have been held in Punjab. But we, the political parties, verbally in this House and elsewhere reiterated that Punjab problem is not a party problem. It should be considered above partisan ends. But still we do not try to arrive at a consensus about how to create confidence in the minds of the people, how to develop effective resistance of the people to combat terrorism, how to gear up the administration there, on which much depends in Punjab. I am very sorry to say that today we are discussing the Bill to cancel the notification for Punjab election but when the decision to hold the elections in Punjab was taken, it was not taken in right earnest. The people who are fighting in Punjab, those who are laying down their lives, who are shedding their blood, they were not taken into confidence.

I know my party objected to holding elections in such casual manner in Punjab. We suggested that certain positive measures should be undertaken, like implementation of the provisions of Punjab Accord. Chandigarh has to go to Punjab. There has to be a solution for the border dispute. For

[Sh. Saifuddin Choudary]

that, a Commission should be instituted. The river water dispute, we suggested, should be forwarded to the Supreme Court for adjudication. We also said that action has to be taken against those criminals who were responsible for initiating the Delhi riots. For the crime of two sikhs, three thousand Sikhs were butchered in Delhi and elsewhere, but nothing happened. If we do not take these kind of measures, how are we going to have peaceful elections in Punjab? That is the answer that has to be given by Chandra Shekharji who took part in this debate. It was not a problem of Samajwadi Janata party, it was not a problem of Congress Party or CPI(M) or BJP, it is the problem of all the nationalistic, Patriotic parties. Why could not we all come together to express a uniform idea about holding elections? It may be two months before or two months later, how does it matter? It is a very serious situation in Punjab. Why can't all those who are pro-India, who are against divisiveness, who are against secessionists' conspiracy that is going on in Punjab, come together?

I am very sorry that those very parties who do not have a single worker to lay down life in Punjab, become very active to show that they are the great democrats in this country. We know, our people go there. On 26th January at Amritsar, CPI (M) and CPI gave a call for mobilisation of people, despite the *bandh* call given by the terrorists. Five thousand people came there. Not a policeman was there to give security to those who came there. Our people arranged their own security. They are the people who have to be taken into confidence.

Punjab is not anybody's party problem. Elections have to be held. I cannot oppose the cancellation of the Notification but to be sincere to the people of Punjab, we have to simultaneously declare another date. When the elections will be held, that should be the responsibility of the Government. That is very necessary. Otherwise it will be understood by the people that we are against giving democratic rights to the people of Punjab. No. I am very sure in my mind that only through administrative measures we are not going to solve the problem of Punjab. We are very sure about it. We have to take certain measures to revamp the administration.

Mr. George Fernandes has referred to certain things. The same copy I have also got. Not doubt, para-military forces are doing a laudable job. They are passing through a difficult time. It is not ordinary time that they are passing through in Punjab. But there may be some black sheep who have developed some vested interests. They may be in league with the terrorist elements who are going on extorting money and kill somebody. They are getting money in their pockets. I do not know; it may be so. If we raise our voice about the allegations of excesses committed, it is not for condemning the whole police force or the para military force that is working there. It is only to make it appear to the world and show that what is being done is done with a purpose and not to harm the people. If there have been some excesses committed, then action is also being taken against them. This is very much necessary.

We have some time on our handsnow. On the 11th of November the President's rule will expire. We have to sit together to find a solution. I mean all the political parties should discuss. Can the elections be held within this period? That is the question. We have to do this exercise very sincerely. All political parties should do it. I do not want that somebody must be excluded from elections in Punjab. If that happens, we may get one or two seats more. But, for the elections in Punjab, I want even the Congress party must also take part. They should also take part. They are the ruling party. Why do they not take part in the elections? I could oppose it. If I do that with a petty and sectarian attitude in my mind that since they are not taking part, we will get two seats more, then it is not the consideration for Punjab. We all have to sit together. This is the condition that we are in Punjab now.

Despite all the problems they are facing

in Punjab and despite all the difficulties, the people in Punjab are secular. They are not fighting each other enmass on communal lines. They are carrying on the economic activity. We have been told that their contribution to the food production this year has been great, compared to the previous years. It has increased. Life in Punjab is going on despite all the attempts to bring it to a halt. It is this which gives us inspiration. When we hear that the terrorists came and attacked a particular house and they faced resistance, we feel proud. But, all these instances of resistance are not properly highlighted.

Ten thousand people from Punjab came just two or three days ago to Delhi. Menfolk, women and children - all have come. They are demanding early elections in Punjab. You kindly understand what kind of risks which are involved for these people when they come here and demand the elections and demand the restoration of peace in Punjab. They are raising their voice against terrorism. Despite all these risks, they still came. But our media failed to highlight this.

What is the role of our electronic media? We should be politicking all the time. Since a particular party has brought the people, do not show them - should this be the attitude. This kind of attitude has really harmed us and will be harming us in the future also.

I do not want to take much time of this House. The unity and integrity of our country is at stake in Punjab. Democratic process of holding elections must be a contributing factor in bringing normalcy in Punjab and strengthening the forces who unite and who would stand for the unity and integrity of the country. If it is to be so, then we have to take certain effective steps on the ground to get the confidence of the people back. That is very much necessary. Nothing can be more harmful than just saying that you are a great democrat while acting in an irresponsible manner, announcing the date of election without making the ground ready for that and for mobilising all the patriotic forces for facing the election. But again we cannot postpone it any more. We have time. Please take steps and announce a date and mobilise everybody so that the people are inspired and we really give a lethal blow to the conspirators who are designing to take Punjab away from India. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is going on two topics. The issue of budget does not seem as important as the issue of political process in Punjab. The Government is further complicating the situation in Punjab by cancelling the elections. Many candidates who were contesting for Lok Sabha and State Assembly were killed. Shri Rajdev Singh's security has been withdrawn. He was a member in the ninth Lok Sabha with us. He has not been provided security till now even after raising this issue in this House again and again.

I want to know from the Government what reply it would give to those families whose members were contesting the election and were killed. Who spent money in election compaign. You cancelled the Punjab elections at the last moment in the interest of your party. Due to some reason your party had decided to boycott the Punjab elections at that time but when your party got power in the centre, you cancelled the elections. You said that you would define when the conditions become conducive. When will you take it as conducive to hold election in Punjab?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to remind the Government that elections for corporation took place in three big cities, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Ludhiana, in the month of May. If elections could be held for corporation, why the elections can not be held for State Assembly and Lok Sabha. So I request you to take it as granted that our party will support your proposal only if you announce a particular date for holding elections in Punjab. As the hon. Member Safuddin Sahab has said-President rule is ending on 11th November. On each occasion, whenever proposal was brought to extend

[Prof. Prem Dhumal]

the president is rule in Punjab, it was appealed to extend it for the last time, we will hold election next time and democratic procedure will take place when you used to sit on this side, you used to ask very loudly about holding the elections in Punjab and now when you have got a chance, you are denying it. So you please announce a fixed date for the Punjab elections. Only then we will support your bill. What signal do you want to convey to the people by cancelling the elections? You said that

[*English*]

It is only one time measure who will believe? Whenever the President rule in Punjab, it was always said, it was only a one time measure, next time there will be a democratically elected Government in the State.

[*Translation*]

And the Minister of Home Affairs comes after 6 months by bearing a long face for the extension of President's rule for another six months. So none will believe you, what you are doing in Punjab today is a wrong practice. Tomorrow, you may be out of power, other party may come in the power, they may say at any time that the conditions are not favourable and they can say it for any state and thus that party may try to postpone the elections. So you will be establishing a wrong precedent. Therefore, it will be proper if you chalk out a time-bound programme for Punjab.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with Shri George Fernandes who said that according to the figures available, Rs. 100 crore had already been spent on the Punjab election before they were called off. The elections were due in June and para-military forces from all over the country were sent to initiate the election process there. Since the elections had been completed all over the country, a large amount of money was spent in movement of those forces from different parts of the country to Punjab. Has anybody kept an account of the money spent in this regard?

Another important matter which I want to raise is that you should distinguish between the militant activities and other crimes in Punjab. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not present here, the hon. Minister of Law is, of course, present in the House. I want that you may ask him to look into the record of crimes committed during the last few years in Punjab. Whenever any crime is committed there, it is treated to be an act of militants. Quarrels and murders particularly due to land disputes used to be a common feature in Punjab in the past also. What happens today is that every crime is seen as an act of militants and no investigation is made into it. Therefore, these two different types of crimes should be distinguished and properly accounted for. Investigations should be made into the cases where police are alleged to be in collusion with the criminals. The President's rule is said to be a sort of heyday for the bureaucrats. It is a fact that the people manning the administration are working there in very trying conditions. I admit it. But corruption is also rampant. Due to such corruption, some vested interests do not want elections there. You should look into this aspect also because it is not the bureaucracy that is ultimately responsible to the people.

I want to draw your attention to one more thing. In Punjab small industries have a tremendous contribution to curb terrorism. People get employment in such industries. But today they are facing economic crisis. They do not get raw material on credit. They purchase it on cash payment but they have to sell their products to the outside buyers on credit. Therefore, the small industries should be given more facilities. Special facilities should be given to small industries in three border districts of Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar. These facilities should be provided in Jalandhar and Ludhiana also, because there is hardly any area in Punjab which is unaffected from terrorism. Therefore, small industries should be given special facilities throughout the State.

I would like to reiterate one more thing which I have been mentioning repeatedly. The youths of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Jammu are fond of arms. If you could take a glance over the history, you will find that the majority of persons recruited in the army come from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu. The Central Government has amended the rules governing the recruitment of youths in the army. Thereby making the recruitment proportionate to the population of the State. As a result thereof, recruitment in the army and para-military forces from these small states has decreased sharply. This is turn has led to increase in unemployment there. When you do not give arms for the security of the nation to those who are fond of them, certain other forces arm them to commit wrong acts. This has further aggravated the problem. I suggest you to make a provision in the budget to recruit youths in the army and para-military forces from Punjab in the same proportion as in the past. Otherwise the terrorists are giving money to them and hiring them. You pay them Rs. 1000 a month whereas the terrorists recruit them on a monthly salary of Rs. 5000.

If you recruit them in the army and paramilitary forces they would take up arms against enemies. If you fail to cope up with their aspirations, they would get their arms from the terrorists and use them against you. Therefore, the most significant thing is to encourage small industry in Punjab. There is a song in Punjabi, "bharti ho jana ukde nahin khana" which means that it is better to be recruited in the army than to live on alms. Thus, every school boy in the State thinks that he will ultimately have to join the army. Since you reduced the number of persons from Punjab to be recruited in the army, terrorism has escalated.

I still see a silver lining there because there is no communal tension there. There is no feeling of Hinduism or Sikhism, though attempts were made at some place to disturb amity between Hindus and Sikhs and incite fellings against each other. If still there is unity or cordiality in them, the Government must come forward to capitalize on this opportunity and channelise the same properly. Workers of every political party are being killed there. Those who are fighting for the cause of the country and speak of national interest, are attacked by the terrorists. Yet the majority of the people are ready to work for the cause of the country. I, therefore, would like to suggest you to recruit the persons from Punjab in the army and paramilitary forces. At the same tome I would urge the hon. Minister that if he wants the Bill to be passed and declaration of elections nullified, the date for the forthcoming elections must be announced forthwith.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier also we had discussed the Punjab problem. Right now, we are discussing the Bill regarding cancellation of elections announced earlier as well as the Punjab Budget. Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the situation prevailing in Punjab. We had supported the caoncellation of elections in Punjab. We did so because we had no other option. Mr. Chairman, Sir, democracy has may drawbacks. But one of its merits is that it is in itself a panacea. There was a time when the Communist Party was under ban and we could not even imagine to participate in elections in the capitalistio set up. Whenever we talked on these lines, we met with stiff opposition within the Party. But when we decided to partioipate in the Democratic system in 1952, Shri Ravi Narayan Reddy won elections from 4 places even though he was in the hiding and our party continuted to be unlawful. He died recently. Now we struggle for our rights in this system. Therefore, to prevent somebody from contesting an election on the suspicion of being a Khalistani, terrorist, disruptive agent, will be a very harsh step and will amount to a cruel injustice against democracy. Someone may like to come and speak here. If anyone does so, he will be heard. He will come across the actual situation here. It will be a period of transition. Thus stepping into the troubled waters will not be proper. If we snatch away others rights, we too may meet the same fate. The happenings in the world stand

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

testimony to this fact. What happened in the Soviet Union recently? When democracy was advocated a bit too strongly, its very purpose received a big jolt with the result that they have started realising that such a gamble was not worth playing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, manifestation of this problem is the result of an attack on democracy when Shri. Darbara Singh was the Chief Minister. He was out and out a non-communal and a freedom fighter. But due to the inner factionalism in the Congress Party, he was dismissed though he enjoyed huge majority in the Vidhan Sabha. The fate that befell the legislature of Punjab is no more a secret. Moreover, it was the Centre which started disruptive and destabilizing process. As a result of the inner factionalism in the Congress Party, the geographic and political importance of Punjab was lost sight of. Therefore, a chain of events followed. The hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes said that the Governor who was sent there to hold elections, recommended to postpone the election at the eleventh hour. In past, during the discussion on Punjab in the House, the galleries used to be packed. Today, I have come to know that people are no more interested in it nor have they faith in us. To postpone election at the last moment is wrong. This caused avoidable destruction as their demands are geniune. The dependents of the victims were to be given compensation. Has the Government learnt any lesson and does it admit that it has committed a crime? The Government of India should regret that it will not be the adequate compensation. It must think for a while. It is related with future. The people there should be convinced that this Government will fulfil its commitments. But the people of Punjab will hardly believe it. In such circumstances, I support this Bill with some reservations.

There is no other wayout. We are not putting it as a precondition. Our B.J.P. colleagues have stated that you should announce the next schedule of elections. If the scheduled election is postponed, it will be dangerous. There is still danger ahead. Still lives are being lost. People have sacrificed their lives for the sake of Independence and democracy. Elections were held peacefully in Assam. The postponement of elections has resulted in further spurt in killings. In such circumstances, the fresh schedule should be announced. If the Minister of Law is not in a position to announce it, the Cabinet should do it. This has to be done sooner or later. So let it be done right now os that we do not have to repeat the exercise of extending the President's rule in Punjab in the next session. Before November, the date of election should be fixed so that we are able to contest elections. Despite the vitiated atmosphere in Punjab, I happened to attend many meetints there. It is very risky to attend meetings in Punjab. It is a matter of great pride for the country that a large number of Communists in Punjab have laid down their lives and become martyrs. About 250 of them have attained martyrdom for the unity of the country. The previous martyrdom has its own importance. The Communists have become a team of martyrs for the unity of Punjab. Red Flag has become the flag of martyrs for unity and sacrifice for the country. In the name of all those martyrs, I request this Government to take steps against communalism. The people whose mother tongue is Punjabi but are non-Sikhs, are asked to learn Hindi. All this started in 1951 after Independence. Does it enhance the dignity of Hindi? If they encourage communalism, their language becomes Punjabi, but many Sikhs assert that their mother tongue is Hindi. It helps the protagonists of Khalistan to spread their propaganda. This is happening even today. We link language with communalism. What name should be given to Khallstani communalism? Indian communalism is not Hindu religion. But some of our colleagues are bent upon turning it into a religion...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Your misunderstanding has been removed. Thanks for it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I shall not reply to it. Whether I have misunderstanding

or not. You may give thanks but do not give it a religious colour. However, giving thanks is better than abusing.

Similarly many things are essential for us. As I have already stated that it is not like a fight between two soldiers. In it innocent and honest people have been misled. They believe that if Babri Masjid is demolished in Ayodhya then what will be the fate of the Gurudwara of Patna. Will that also be demolished. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: You are deviating from the issue.

SHRI. BHOGENDRA JHA: Please listen, they think that if the mosque of Ayodhya is demolished, the Gurudwara of Patna will also be demolished. I want to mention about it because when talk of demolishing temple, mosque and Gurudwara here it has a reaction on the other side...(*Interruptions*)... Please have patience. I request you to listen to me. I went Amritsar and addressed a meeting at Putaligarh. There I also met same supporters of Khalistan. I told them that if they want Khalistan them what will happen to Patna Sahib. Where Guru Gobind Singh, the founder of Khalsa Panth was born. It is the first gurudwara of the world. Will you leave that? If you want to take that gurudwara within Khalistan then you will have to extend Khalistan upon Bihar. So tell us what will you do? Then, I ask them what they will do about the Gurudwara of Nanded where Guru Gobind Singh had died, and wherefrom our Minister of Home Affairs, comes who is not present here, at the moment. It is the fifth gurudwara of the world. The name of Khalistan will not be meaningful without Nanded and if you want to extend Khalistan up to Nanded, then you have to carry fight upto the border of Karnataka. If there is any conflict between us, we can resolve that by negotiation. At the end of the meeting when I was coming out four or five Khalistani youth who were taking tea outside who did not recognise me said during their conversation that I had created a commotion in their mind by disclosing these facts to them. They abused me also which proved that they found some truth in my words.

That is why I say that there are many such people who are smugglers, criminals, there are others who belong to such gangs who make attacks on the public and save themselves from our security police by paying hush money and mislead the people. Those people should be identified and should be dealt with properly. So I again stress that the main solution to the Punjab issue is not the deployment of Army but it is political and involves intelligence and intelligency improvements. I have visited there many times and found that the intelligence service has become very ineffective. It can't distinguish between real and unreal, right and wrong, who wants to unite and who wants to disintegrate the country and who can create distrubances to preserve their profession. Some murder takes place and our Reserve force para military force and military reach there and start firing, those who opened fire in the village has fled away and those who were innocent were killed. It is defaming us, our country and our constitution. My submission is that T.V., radio and the newspapers should not give fillip to this aspect. Many of our friends belonging to Congress and Shri. Saffuddin said that recently a big procession with red flags was taken out in Delhi, Patna and Amritsar. Such a situation should not be placed before the country....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: T.V. radio and Press do not highlight the efforts being made for stabling unity in the country, they only give prominence to the killings in Punjab. There is an old saying that when a dog bites a man, it does not become a news, but when a man bites a dog it becomes a news which proves harmful to us. It is clear that there is a foreign hand behind what is happening in Punjab and there is a need to take firm steps in this regard. Political process should be initiated there. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was assassinated so a wave of anger was natural, but what had happened in the riots of 1984 in Delhi and other places, I will cite an example

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

in that report.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I was in Darbhanga. A procession of lord Hanuman's statue was taken out there. There was nobody in Mirzapur to check the people from replacing a gurudwara by a Hanuman temple. people were already irritated. The population of Sikh is less there. Moreover, they were not in a position to face them, therefore we interfered...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point. Your time is over..

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I shall conclude my speech whenever you will ask for it. When we interfered the crowd left the statue of Lord Hanuman and ran away. The statue was kept for six month in the police station but nobody comes to claim it. We made an announcement that the owner of the statue should come forward and take that away.

SEVERAL HON.MEMBERS: Where?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: In Darbhanga and in Mirzapur. Mr. Chairman Sir, the point is that the accused of the killings in Delhi during 1984 riots should be punished and in Pilibhit..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Just a minute Sir. strict action should be taken for Pilibhit incident. I wish that the Government should constitute an all party advisory committee at state level for Punjab and that should go to the lower levels. The parties which are ready to save the nation and Punjab should constitute that committee, so that a check could be placed over the arbitrary attitude of the bureaucrates. Mr. Chairman Sir, when I was about to speak, I received a letter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, pleace leave it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: It is important. The D.I.G. of Ferozepur range took two sons of Pritam Singh from his house in village Malhot and shot them. This rumour was spread that they were related to the terrorists. Then inspector of Malhot police station is not ready to commit orally or in writing that there was a fued between a land lord and a Zamindar and DIG accomplished the task. In this way on the one hand people are being made against us and our country and on the other hand killings are being continued. Therefore the constitution of an all party committee should be started at once and at all levels. Hon.Minister should announce it in this budget and assurance should be given that the election will not be postponed again and will be completed within the fixed period. In the constitution it is stated that we will hold the election even at the cost of our lives. As we sacrifice our lives for the nation similarly we will sacrifice our lives for the election. With these words I conclude my speech and support the Bill hoping that the Government will hold election at the earliest.

15.00 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Reddaiah to speak.

SHRI. K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machhlipatnam); Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to speak in Telugu.

Sir, normally in public meetings senior leaders would be given a chance in the end and juniors speak in the beginning. But here the tradition is reversed, seniors are called to speak first and juniors last, Here also we could be called in the beginning and all the senior leaders may be given the chance at the end.

I oppose, speaking from my party, the postponement of elections to Punjab.

[*Translation*]

*Sir, my submission to the Hon. Chairman is that normally in public meetings senior

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* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

leaders are given chance in the last Junior leaders speak first.

HON. CHAIRMAN: Your party has got 5 minutes.

SHRI. K.P. REDDAIAH: The tradition has been reversed here. You called the junior leaders first and the senior leaders in the last.

Sir, we, the Members of Telugu Desam Party oppose the postponement of elections in Punjab.

Sir, Hon'ble Members who have participated in the discussion have already covered a lot of ground.

Sir, the discussion should not be confined to the only point, whether the elections should be held in Punjab or it should be postponed indefinitely. In 1991, elections were held throughout the country. The return of the Congress has proved omenious to the people of Punjab. Congress returned to power at a time when the people had lost their faith in the Congress party and its Government. It is unfortunate, not only to the people of Punjab, but to the entire country as well. Immediately after their return to power, even before assuming power, they cancelled in elections in Punjab. They once again displayed their characteristic short sightedness, crookedess and their selfishness beyond any doubt. The Prime Minister has taken oath at 12.50 P.M. Miniutes before the oath taking ceremony, the Congress government order the postponement of elections in Punjab. The Congress culture of suppression of democracy, norrow mindedness, their preference of the party of the nation were once again made known to the world by the declaration of the postponement of elections. Sir, the people in punjab are being projected as antinationai, antisocials and terrorists. This sweeping remark is being made against them time and again. What can be more far from truth than this statement. Sikhs belive in the unity and intigrity of the nation. They made the supreme Sacrifice for the sake of the nation. History is replete with their heroic deeds in saving the national from external aggressions. They feel proud to claim themselves as the citizens of this glorious land. There is not even a single instance which can prove that the entire Sikh Community is anti-national. They are not interested in secessionism. It is the Congress Party which is solely responsible for this sorry state of affairs in the country. Be it the naxalism in Andhra or terrorism in Punjab, it is the Congress culture and the Congress rule which are solely responsible for it. Disgusted with the long congress rule, the disperate youth in Andhra have taken up arms to fight the social injustice. Similar is the situation in Punjab. The Sikh youth never wanted to secede from the country. In their heart of hearts they do not entertain any idea of separatism. Actually, they never fought or fighting for an independent Khalistan. As a matter of fact, they are fighting against injustice perpetrated on them. They were denied to rule their own state. They were not given any opportunity. sir, only this morning, one Hon. Member belonging to CPI-M, had been pleading with the Hon. Speaker to give a chance to speak. When it was denied to him, as there were several other members who too wanted to speak, the Hon.Speaker asked him to resume his seat. The agitated Member went on arguing his case with the chair. But, once the Hon.Speaker gave him the chance to speak, every thing was calm and quiet. The Member thanked the Hon. Speaker profusely for his gesture. This one incident makes one thing very clear that when the opportunity is given to the people there will no more be any tension. In politics at national level too, the same approach should be adopted. I want to ask the Congress government at the centre, as to how long are they going to deny the constitutional rights to the patriotic Sikh brothers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation? How long are they going to deny their legitimate right given under the Constitution, to the people of Punjab to chose their own Govt? How can any one in the country forget their heroic deeds? Bhagat Singh continues to be a source of patriotism in this country even to this day. During 1965 war with Pakistan, thousands of Sikhs shed their

[Sh. K.P. Reddaiah]

blood to protect our beloved mother land. Even the women and children in the border areas formed a second line of defence to protect the country. They offered food etc. to the fighting soldiers. Yet, forgetting this fact, the Government has chosen to deprive them of their basic right to elect their own government to run the state administration. How is that they are being branded as antinationals day in and day out? Who is the anti-national? Is it not the Congress which looted the country and brought the country to such a pass through BCCI and Multi Nationals? Not only that they did not allow any system to take roots. They did not allow any party to emerge as an alternative to the Congress. Their crooked and cunning politics destroyed every system. There is nothing wrong in the politics. But to introduce it where it is detrimental to the growth of democracy is abhorable. Let the Congress rule the country a hundred years more. I have no objection. But they should not resort to petty politics and destroy the foundations of democracy. They should not destabilise the country by their politics and actions. Sir, D.M.K. under the leadership of veterans like Anna Durari and Naicker, agitated for Dravidastan for sometime. Elections were not held in the State during that time. Pandit Nehru's Government, denied them the elections, saying that they were agitating for a separate country. Later on DMK party split, thanks to the manoeuvres of Congress men. Now the same Congress Party has alliance with AIADMK which is an offshoot of the DMK party. That is how they managed to remain in power. They did not allow any alternative to emerge. Sir, in 1983, Shri N.T. Rama Rao, our beloved leader founded Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh. He was voted to power with a thumping majority. An alternative to Congress rule emerged in Andhra. In all respects, it was unprecedented. The Congress, which could not withstand the emergence of Shri N.T. Rama Rao was at the game again to divide the Telugu Desam. They succeeded in their attempt and the Telugu Desam was divided into two Telugu Desam (Nadendla Bhaskar Rao, and Telugu Desam (N.T.R.). This is the true colour of Congress culture. Similarly at National level, there was Lok Dal (Ajit Singh) and Lok Dal (Bahuguna). Congress is responsible in the fragmentation of Nation Front also. There was a movement in Andhra Pradesh for separate Telangana. Congress party did not allow certain leaders from Telangana to emerge. Well, as is known to everyone, the disgruntled Congressmen agitated for a separate State. Similar is the case with Punjab. National level leaders like Shri Tara Singh, Prakash Singh Badal and Surjit Singh Baranala were not allowed to emerge as the front ranking leaders. There were divisions in Akali Dal too. Who is responsible for this? It is the Congress. Akali Dal was not allowed to function. That is the reason, Sir, why the Sikhs wanted to teach a lesson to the leadership at the Centre by resorting to terrorist activities. They are giving a vent to their pent up feeling and frustration. This is the main reason for the terrorist activities in Punjab. They do not have anything against the country as such. Sir, the reason why I am norrating all that what has happened in the past is only to remind the Congressmen that they should discharge their responsibilities with wisdom and sagacity. As a national party, they have an enormous responsibility on their shoulders. They should conduct themselves in such a way as to show path to others. I want your organisation to be an ideal one for others to emulate. The congress. Akali Dal should not conduct themselves in punjab as they conduct themselves in AICC. Such politics will not work in Punjab. The Punjabis are a brave people and they do not tolerate petty politics. Sir, we say that we are a democracy. What is the fundamental principle of the democracy? It is the hammering out a solution to the problems sitting across table through a dialogue. If you open a dialogue, something will come out. Have you ever tried to sit with them? You call them terrorists; but I do not call them So. They are the proud sons of mother India. Even the naxalites do not advocate a separate State. The Congress has reduced them to such a level. There is one rule for the Prime Ministeris son and some other rule for the Common folk. They have one set of rules for the industrial magnets and yet some other set of rules for

the starving millions. The multi millenaries are allowed to loot the country while if a starving man commits a petty theft to get somathing to eat, the entire state machinery will pounce on him and punish him. Law enforcement is applied only on humble, weak, starved and depressed. Hence unable to withstand the tragic things that are taking place today, the youth in the country are taking up to arms and trying to seek solution to their problems through violence. That is the reason why many young educated men are resorting to armed struggle against state represession. Yet they are being branded as anti-nationals, naxalites or terrorists. What is strange is that the present Finance Minister is supporting BCCI, while many countries have already condemned its activities. Such a stand taken by the Government would naturally infuriate the youth. They want to take revenge on the politicians and bureaucrats who are responsible for this sorry state of affairs in a violent way. There is nothing wrong if they think so. Sir, one appeal that I make to this government is to give a chance to the people of Punjab to elect their government. I am sure, they will not go out of India. I am fully confident that they will not form Khalistan. They are better patriots than the rest of the people. They are certainly better than the congressmen Sir, the country is facing a crisis today. Situation is fast slipping out of our hands. Veteran leader, Shri Atalji mentioned about it only this morning. I appeal to the Congressmen to rise above the party politics and think about the nation. Today, Shri Madan Lal Khorana is looking vary confident. Tomorrow, the congressman may see to it that such a disciplined party like B.J.P. is also divided into B.J.P. (Atalji) and B.J.P. (Advaniji). Everything is done behind the curtain to divide the parties. I am afraid, that day is not far off. If all the parties work together, we can make India as one of the front ranking nations. I appeal to the Congress men to think of the country first. Sir, when Telgu Desam, under the leadership of Shri. N.T. Rama Rao was in power in Andhra Pradesh, there was not even a single communal clash there. The moment the Congress part returned back to power, the old Hyderated city was reduced to ashes in communal clashes. The state was tension free during the seven years of golden rule of Shri. N.T. Rama Rao.

I once again appeal to the Government to conduct elections in Punjab as early as possible. If they delay the decision and play politics, the situation will slip out of hands once and for all.

Similarly, I appeal to my Sikh brothers through this august forum not to harm the innocents. Let the innocent men, women and children be spared. Do not hurt them in any way. You may tease and terment the politicians and bureaucrats who crushed the society under their iron boots, but kindly do not touch the innocents.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you have given me to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI. ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, I rise oppose all the three items - 16, 17 and 18. All these items relate to the situation in Punjab. Therefore, if we consider the situation in Punjab, it has got three corners. On one side are the activities of the terrorists against the peace-loving people of Punjab and the support those militants are getting from Pakistan and, through Pakistan, from other foreign countries.

The second corner is our aim of keeping the people of Punjab in the mainstream of national unity and for that, holding the elections and giving them the democratic rule there to rule themselves.

The third point is the present administration and the difficulties they have to face.

Year after year, we are discussing the budget of Punjab State in this House which should have bean discussed in the Assembly of Punjab by the elected representatives of Punjab. As my hon. friend, Prof. Dhumal has pointed out, on the one hand, you are holding elections for the local-self govern-

[Sh. Anna Joshi]

ment, corporations, and people are going out. In spite of threats, they are voting and they are having their leaders there, and they are doing the work of local -self government. On the other hand, you say that the conditions are such that you cannot hold elections. This is something contradictory.

When you can hold elections and people had voted in Amritsar and Hoshiarpur for Municipal Corporations, the same people are going to vote for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections also. Therefore, the argument that the present situation is not proper to hold elections there is not correct. At least, we will have belief in the Government and vote for the Motion if only, as Mr. Jha has said, it will not be postponed for unlimited time. You must say here and now within how many months you will be holding elections there. Only then we can support this Motion.

Sir, the main problem in Punjab is the militant activities there and these activities are supported, accelerated and financed by different centres, It has been to the notice of the House that there are nearly 51 centres created in the Pakistan territory where these militants get arms, ammunition, money and everything. They get their shelter and training there. At the same time, these are centres from where the Pakistani trained terrorists smuggle drugs and narcotics into the Indian territory. Therefore, if our Government wants to get rid of the militants problem, its first duty should be to destroy all the centres come what may.

Only the other day, we were talking about solving the Punjab problem. We were saying that we must have no man's land strip along the Indo-Pak border of one kilometre wide so that we can be more watchful there and at the same time, rehabilitation of ex-service men is also necessary so that such activities may be curbed.

The next problem is about the hostages. This problem is not only in India but in the whole world and nowadays, it is on the increasing scale. People are taken hostages for getting the militants freed from jail. Now, it has gone to such an extent that our Government and especially the Assam Government had freed 500 militants in the past. There was a cartoon which appeared in the newspapers also about two or three days back A PA of a Chief Minister was holding his phone in his hand and was talking to the Chief Minister. He said, "Sir, the condition of letting free the militants from the jail cannot be fulfilled unless we arrest some militants and kept them in jail so that we can free them". So, this is the state of affairs. How the militant activities can be stopped is up to the Government or the party leaders to sit and decide. But let a word go to the militants that if a person is taken as hostage or if he is killed or done something wrong, then the person for whom they have taken that person as hostage, will not see the next day light. If that kind of a warning is given to them, the militant activities will be controlled.

The next point is about the administration and taking the people into confidence. I think as the first step, we should announce the date of elections and only then, we can get the confidence of the people.

We will have to face the conditions whatever they may be and under any circumstances, the elections in Punjab should be held before this particular date. So, that will be the first step for creating confidence in the people of Punjab.

Now I come to the second aspect. I would like to read out a paragraph to show what is the best way for our administration. It must be clearly understood that the greatest argument against Khalistan can only be through civilized methods. I may clarify here that I am not criticising all our military and people. If some atrocities are committed and if people feel that these atrocities are committed in the name of militants, we should see that only civilised ways are adopted to tackle the problem along with a firm determination for safeguarding our national Interests. Unfortunately, at the moment, the

methods appear to be neither civilised nor are they determined against the anti-national forces and those foreign countries who are behind them. Sir, the mettle of the Governor or the Government will be tested not by the number of militants killed or arrested by the security people, but by their ability to create conditions in which the people of Punjab refuse to be separated from this country even if they are offered an opportunity.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Chairman Sir, it is almost a decade that our nation has been facing one of the most intractable problems in Punjab. Although it is a problem associated with Punjab, it is not the problem of Punjab as such; it is a problem of our nation as a whole. And it is not only a problem relating to Punjab and nation as a whole, but it relates to the very unity and integrity of our country.

Sir, if you allow me to show the genesis of this problem and also the failure for not being able to achieve a breakthrough, I must refer to the partisan and narrow policies of the Congress (I) in sustaining and nourishing the problem as we find it today.

The situation has become very grave. It has become grave particularly because of the fact that forces across the border have intensified their evil activities in order to create a condition of destabilisation within our country. Along with that, the terrorists and secessionists in Punjab have also intensified or stepped up their activities by way of kidnappings, random killings, extortion of money and so on. Sir, it has been further complicated and compounded because of the corrupt practices indulged in by the police officials and persons placed in high authorities. With all these things taken together, the problem of Punjab has become intractable. The solution to this problem does not lie in the trigger happy police or army. The solution to the problem lies in the political approach. This political approach to the problem must be associated with an attempt - an honest and sincere attempt - to have a democratically elected Government in Punjab.

Sir, it is unfortunate that the Punjab Budget is being successively discussed in this House not in the elected Legislature of Punjab. Earlier, the election used to be held.

As a matter of fact, I rise to support the Bill which is now under consideration for the conceliation of process of election in Punjab. There is no other way except to support the Bill. It is not possible to hold election in Punjab by the 25th of this month. There is no other alternative for any of us, who are responsible to the cause of democracy and also to the cause of the country's democratic legacies and traditions than to accept this position. Therefore, I am reluctantly supporting this Bill. But at the same time, this Bill will be mis-construed and will give a wrong signal to the people of Punjab.

I think none of us is interested, including the Government to give a wrong signal to the people of Punjab, a wrong signal to the secessionists, a wrong signal to the terrorists of Punjab. If this wrong signal, that is, the Government is not willing to hold elections at any given point of time goes around, then it is not good. Therefore, in order to give a correct signal to the people of Punjab you should announce the date. If you say that the election is going to be held 'as soon as possible' then it does not give a correct impression among the people of Punjab. It does not give a clear and loud signal to the people of Punjab. Therefore along with the passage of this Bill, it is necessary that you should announce the date of holding the election. If we cancel the process of election and say that it will be held as and when possible, when there is a conducive situation, then, Sir, it will be a wrong signal and I cannot be a party to that wrong signal. Because that signal will destroy the country's unity and integrity. It will further strengthen Khalistani forces who want to destabilise our country with the aid of the foreign imperialists' power.

Therefore, a correct signal should go. In order to give a correct signal, I want that the

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

hon. Minister, who is piloting the Bill, in course of his reply, should announce clearly and loudly that election will be held by such and such a date.

It is not possible to hold the election immediately. But for that a conducive condition is to be created. I suggest that this political initiative should be immediately taken by the Government, that is a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to the problem to beaf up the security arrangement in Punjab, immediate implementation of Rajiv-Longowal Agreement, by transferring Chandigarh to Punjab, river water dispute should be referred to the Supreme Court for adjudication, appointment of a Commission for the settlement of the territorial dispute, punishment of 1984 anti-sikh rioteers, the new economic package for the reduction of the unemployment problem in Punjab and other economic problems to be solved and eradication of corruption.

These are the immediate steps which the Government should initiate so that condition conducive for free and fair election can be created and people's opinion can be mobilised in favour of unity and integrity.

Sir, my last appeal to the Government and to all the parties of the country would be that the election should be held only on one electoral plank.

That electoral plank should be unity and integrity of the country. The battlelines should be drawn between the forces which are for the unity and integrity of the country and those which want to de-stabilise the country, those who want to destroy the country. That should be the only electoral plank. I think the partriots, nationalists and democratic and secular forces should be united to fight finally the terrorists and secessionist forces and that will be the only way to save Punjab and save India.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to conclude this debate I must now allow the hon. Minister to reply.

Shri Shantaram Potdukhe

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to the Members who had made their points. They have made useful suggestions also. As far as Punjab is concerned, it is doing very well despite difficulties in law and order, though it is under a fear psychosis. I must say that it is doing well.

As far as the Budget of Punjab is concerned, the Budget provides for a Plan outlay of Rs. 1010 crores and the Central Government will be providing a special assistance of Rs. 600 crores to finance the Plan. As far as the Plan outlay is concerned, in 1990-91 the Plan outlay was Rs. 905 crores and the actual performance was Rs.945 crores. The growth rate in the Sixth Plan was 5.08 per cent, and in the Seventh Plan it is going to be 6.40 per cent. As far as the increase in the Plan outlay is concerned, it is 11.6 per cent. That is the increase in the Plan outlay.

As far as agriculture is concerned, I wish to inform that with only 2.5 per cent of India's population and 1.54 per cent of the gross area of the country, punjab produced 23 per cent of wheat and 24 per cent of cotton, 9 per cent of rice of the country's total production. Wheat production in 1990-91 is estimated to be 121 lakh tonnes and of paddy 65 lakh tonnes. Punjab's contribution to the central pool had been substantial, that is, 60 per cent for wheat and 50 per cent for rice.

As far as industries are concerned, the industrial sector has also performed very well in the recent years. Up to 31.3.1991 the total small scale units were 1.60 lakh and they were giving employment to 6.68 lakh persons. Similarly, the number of medium and large scale units was 372 giving employment to 1.74 lakh persons. The number of

Letters of Intent/Registration issued were only 85 in 1987-88 and went up to 229 in 1989-90.

As far as power is concerned, I must tell you that the thermal power plants are functioning at very reasonable levels of Plant Loan Factor and agriculture consumes 46 per cent of the total power. Adequate power supply to industries has been ensured. The Ropar Thermal Power Plant Stage III with 420 Megawatt capacity will be commissioned in 1992-93. Additional investment of funds will be required to meet the needs of the consumers. The Dam Project is also proceeding smoothly and adequately. Sufficient outlays are being provided with the outlay for 1991-92 at Rs.170 crores.

Sir, in Punjab there is decentralised planning. One of the major innovations introduced last year was the decentralisation of planning to the district level. Rs.284 crores out of the annual plan outlay are being provided to the districts to be spent on various development schemes at the discretion of the District Planning Boards. These Boards, in the absence of elected Zila Parishads, provide for representation of Sarpanches and Gram Panchayats on the Boards with four Sarpanches coming from each Block. Additionally, representatives of the major political parties are also members of the Board. Funds placed at the disposal of the Boards are utilised in accordance with the felt needs of the people and specific requirements of the areas concerned in accordance with the local priorities. This mechanism also encourages voluntary contributions from the public.

As far as employment is concerned, about, 5,000 persons were provided subsidy for loans on dairy, poultry, piggery and fisheries, etc. The youth in the boarder areas are especially focussed upon and loans upto Rs. 1 lakh are arranged with a subsidy of 15 per cent being provided by the Government. A centre for training and employment for the body youth has been established as a registered society with the object of selecting youth for imparting training in various skills and also social integration. Out of 4,304 young men trained during the year 1990-91, 2,330 have been selected for training in the Army, Para Military Forces, various corporations and private sector units.

As far as relief and resettlement are concerned. The Government is providing relief on a substantial scale to the females affected by terrorist violence, to sikh migrants, who came to punjab after the 1984 disturbances, and also to internal migrants within the State. Subsistence aliowance to widows of persons killed by terrorists have been increased from Rs. 250 to Rs.1,000 per month with effect from 1.5.1990. In addition, marriage grants for unmarried daughters and priority for employment are some of the other benefits provided. Ex-gratia grants for the families of persons killed in terrorist violence has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs.50,000. To facilitate the return of the families who have left their homes and gone out of Punjab, a number of benefits have been provided, including an ex-gratia grant of Rs. 2,000 per family to cover expenses of returning to Punjab, transport grant of Rs. 500 and a rental of Rs. 300 per month for hiring a private house at the new place of residence. For internal migrants also, the same facilities are given at their new place of residence in Punjab. An amount of over Rs.34 crores has so far been given as a one time ex-gratia grant to the families of 7,057 persons killed in terrorist violence. Over 14,000 internal migrant families have been given cash relief of Rs. 7.41 crores upto June 1991.

Sir, during this debate, some points were raised by the hon. Members. Shri George Fernandes has said that interest receipts, profits, dividends is Rs. 1,439 crores in 1991-92 whereas it was only Rs.60 crores in 1990-91. Also he has said that on power, in 1991-91 an amount of Rs.4,355 crores is provided whereas an amount of Rs.1,700 crores was provided in 1990-91. Sir, the Punjab Government have committed to provide subsidy for rural.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Minister is getting all my figures wrong. What I said is this. Your Budget says that in regard

[Sh. George Fernandes]

to receipts, there is a net receipt of interest receipts, dividends and profits, of which interest receipts alone are Rs. 1,439 crores in the current Budget as against Rs.60 crores in the last Budget. You are saying Rs. 1439 crores. In so far as power is concerned, whereas in 1989-90 there was Rs. 1000 crores, in 1990-91 there was no money at all allocated. in the current Budget, you are allocating Rs. 1377 crores. But, you gave wrong figures. You gave figures that I have not mentioned.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: The Punjab Government have committed to provide subsidy for rural electrification to the Punjab State Electricity Board but the amount could not be paid any time in the past. Punjab State Electricity Board has also defaulted on payment of interest on loans given by the State Government. This year, Government decided to adjust ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Some one has to tell us where from this money comes Rs.1400 crores? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. You listen to him fully.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I can understand the Minister explaining as to how the money is going to be spent? But, from where did the money come? You said that the money has come through interest. interest on what? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : The loan given by the Government to the Department of Electricity.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Then, you have to call it as loan, not as an interest. In fact, you are misleading the House (*Interruptions*)

SHRI. SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, this year, Government decided to adjust the two outstanding that is, interest and subsidy and consequently, a provision of Rs. 1377 crores has been made on receipts and expenditure side for giving to P.S.E.B. These entries are only book entries but it was necessary to provide for it and to obtain vote of Parliament. Thus, although it is classified as non-plan expenditure, it is not for payment of salaries and allowances.

SHIR GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I seek your protection. The Budget papere say...(*Interruptions*) Sir, we would like to know where did the money come from and where is it going to be disbursed?

On Page 1 of your document, you have a specific entry. The entry is "B- Non-tax Revenue in which other Fiscal Services"- there is nothing," Interest Receipts Dividends and Profits" is the sub-title. Then, you say specifically Interest Receipts Rs.14,39,22,77. (*Interruptions*). Now, you have said this year. Now, you are telling that this is a book entry. You are saying that this is an interest receipt. Now, you are telling that this is a book entry. Then, you are showing on the other side as an expenditure of Rs. 137736 lakhs under the title power. Now, are you telling me that these are being written off. And then you said that these are book entries. Does it make any sense? It does not make any sense.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: These are adjustments both to the receipts and expenditure side.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, this is not adjustment. You asked under a specific title. You said you have received through interests. Interest Receipts as against Rs.60 crores last year, this year it is Rs.1439 crores.

Last year's Interest receipts were Rs.60,11,00,000 and this year they are Rs.14,39,22,00,000. You cannot say that

these are book entries. You are on a specific point of Interest receipts. Interest on what? From where? Either he is trying to fudge or there is a move somewhere to siphon off. One of the two things is happening here, Sir. The Government should explain what exactly this is. I do not understand this.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We can give him time, Sir,

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let him come prepared tomorrow, Sir, You adjourn the House. Let him come prepared tomorrow. But we need to hear an explanation. we must get a reply to this..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): If the Minister is not prepared, then the House should be adjourned. This is a pertinent proposal, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is trying his best to explain (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, the amount owed by the Punjab State Electricity Board to the Punjab Government has been taken as interest receipts and the corresponding amount owed by the Punjab Government to the Punjab State Electricity Board has been taken as an expenditure..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: In other words, you are writing off all your expenditure. That is what you are saying ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, with the leave of the hon. Minister, may I kindly intervene? I think if the hon. Members are not able to catch on to the terminology and understand, we can have that exercise later. There is no objection to that. But the point is he is making it very clear that this is not actual receipts and actual expenditure. It is a matter of adjustment of account where earlier outstandings have been shown as having been brought in, and it is being shown as expenditure also. That is all he is trying to say. If they want to go into the minor details, he is willing to go into that.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, this is nothing private between the junior Minister and myself. The House has to be told what they say...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: This is not the way in which it is being done, Sir, I have never seen a budget discussed like this. After so many years, do not teach us how budgets are discussed...(*Interruptions*)

SHIR A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : I am on a point of order, Sir,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, what is your point of order?

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, my point of order is whether there is a terminology like 'junior Minister'. If so, let it be explained who is a junior Minister and who is a senior Minister..(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is entitled to ask clarifications and the Minister in charge must explain, and let us see ultimately what is the outcome...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH(Jalore): Sir, may I with the permission of the Chair, inform this august House that the electricity boards all over the country, in all the States, are autonomous bodies and they continue their day to day business by taking loans from the respective State Governments and they are shown in the Government's records as receipts and expenditure. The hon. Minister has explained that position to the satisfaction of the House and we are satisfied with whatever has been told (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, just one more point. Shri Madan Lai Khurana

[Sh. Shantaram Potdukhe]

has referred about the Budget document. The Budget documents presented to Lok Sabha in connection with Punjab Budget 1991-92 are the same as those presented with the Budget of any State under President's rule. These include:

(i) Annual financial statement;

(ii) Demands for Grants;

(iii) Expenditure Memorandum; and

(iv) Vote on Account

No other document is required to be presented

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: ... (*Interruptions*) It is very essential to consult the last year's Performance Report and Administrative Report in order to know as to how much the amount has been allocated and how much has been spent out of it . The same has not been supplied to us. I would like to know the reasons therefor.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir I Shall supply the information to the Hon. Member Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You write a letter.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, firstly I am extremely grateful to Hon. Members, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, Shri P.K. Bansal, our former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri George Fernandes, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri, Shri Saifuddin Choudhury, Shri Prem Dhumal, Shri Bhogendra Jha, Shri Anna Joshi and all others who participated and who have spoken on the Bill and also all the others who participated in the debate.

Some of the speakers did actually support the Bill some reluctantly and some whole-heartedlY. But the fact is that the majority of the speakers have mentioned in their own way that there was no other alternative but to bring about this Bill to cancel the notification.

I am sure the House and the Members must have understood that other potions were available to the Government. One was to do interpretative exercise using the General Clauses Act and saying that the power to notify has the power to de-notify. We did not go through that as we sincerely felt that it had legal lacunae as well and it is not really feasible in such matters. The other was to amend the Representation of People Act and give a general power in such cases when such situations arise where the President may- of course, on the aid and advice of the council of Ministers decide to cancel the elections. But, because we felt it may not be appropriate since cancellation of election is a very important matter, we did not do it.

Since this is about the first time that a general election in a State is coming up in such a manner, we felt that precedent should be laid down that cancellation of elections should be by a special Bill of Parliament, a special statute, so that the supreme democratic institution, Parliament, representing the sovereign people, would take a decision in circumstances which are prevalent and which are special enough for cancellation.

The points that have been raised by some of our Hon. Members especially the more vocal and stronger Members, all turn around the fact that there is a presumption being made by many Members that the decision of postponement of election taken by the C.E.C. was ours. It was not ours. Nether it is by the Government-even when we were in power I repeat, even if we were in

power-let us presume that the Congress Government did not-hypothetically-take the oath on the 21st but actually took it on the 19th...even then the power to postpone an election is solely with the autonomous authority known as the chief Election Commissioner. And he did it as a conscious act taking into consideration various reports that were at his disposal and I do not think it is proper for me to stand up say that these are the reasons for which he did it, whether they are right or wrong. But we feel personally on a *post facto* examination of various reports that were available, that it was justified. But leaving it aside, the most important issue that is before us is that the postponement of the election, the impact it had on the general frend of elections as well being conducted in the sense that we had to look after thousands of candidates from their security point of view in Punjab especially and looking after their security right up to the 25th of September is not simple. Before postponement of elactions well as, in fact, just beforeelections, we saw a lot of violence. Many of the Members have spoken of the increase in the type of violence and the change also in the type of violence there in Punjab. Terrorism has taken an ugly turn. We are noticing that terrorism has kidnapping as a new method, kidnapping for ransom, as a revenue earning technique on one side, and the other side is kidnapping for the release of comrades, militants and armed terrorists as another technique.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Comrades?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Obviously they are comrades (*Interruptions*). 'Comrade' is not a sanctified thing which only the Communists can have. (*Interruptions*) I beg your pardon, this, I would say, is most unfair. You cannot have a trade mark that it belongs only to Communist movement. (*Interruptions*) That is the point, some of them don't use it nowadays.(*Interruptions*) But the point which is important and should be considered is that actually the situation today in Punjab is that you cannot hold elections without taking immediate steps to set right matters there. We would need not too much time for it, but a little time is required, but definitely the point that has been made by almost all Members is that we cannot have in Punjab a situation in which we would never have elections. Elections have to be held and unless election is held, we cannot bring back full normalcy in Punjab. That is clear, and our Government is totally in tune with that. We would like to hold elections as soon as possible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: When? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Will you allow me to speak?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Why not indicate a firm date?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I would tell you why I cannot. (*Interruptions*) Shri Vajpayee is a very senior leader. Shri George Fernandes said using an English parliamentary term calling me a 'junior Minister'. Unfortunately I am not that junior, I come in between in the ranking. But that does not matter. The issue that is important is to declare a specific date for holding elections. It cannot be done by me here. It may be mentioned that under the relevant provisions....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The Government has to make a recommendation to the Chief Election Commissioner.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The Government does not recommend to the Chief Election Commissioner. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I know all the technicalities. But you can indicate a fim date to the House.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The Government does not recommend it to the Chief Election Commissioner.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I know all the technicalities. Mr. Minister, I know you are referring to the technicalities. I know. the

[Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Notification has to come from the President. But how is the mind of the Government working? Do you want elections?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Now you asked a specific question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:... If you want to hold elections in November, you will not come with an amendment before the House or you will not issue an Ordinance.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, you kindly note that I have not yielded to Shri George Fernandes. He has a tendency of taking on the Ministers without even asking them to yield, and then talking of parliamentary ethics. It is a little unfair. But if I may submit, if you are asking what is in our mind, I can tell you, we are very clear.

20.00 hrs

We would like to have elections as soon as possible in Punjab.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: How soon would you like to have elections?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The President's Notification is valid till 11th of November, 1991. We have not brought anything before you today in the form of Statutory Resolution asking you to extend the President's rule. If you are asking how soon the elections would be held there, it cannot be tomorrow and we have said that the atmosphere is such. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Will the Minister assure that the Government would come forward with a notification calling for elections in Punjab before the next Session of Parliament?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not yielding to him and I request you to wipe that out of the record, because they must learn to ask us to yield at least. I am willing to do it. Why can they not give that courtesy? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Hon. Minister please yield for a minute? I am happy that he is confronting to very strict parliamentary practice.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: It is not strict paractice; it is common respect to each other.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have a specific question. Will the Minister assure the House that in the period between now and the convening of the next Session of Parliament- if it should be after the month of November, that is, the convening of the next Session of Parliament- the Government would not come forward with an Ordinance for extending the President's rule in Punjab?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I think, the law is a little unclear in the minds of the Hon. Member. He should look at the relevant article in the Constitution; he will come to know whether we can bring an Ordinance or not. Let him get clear about it. Then I would reply to it.

I can only say so much today and I do not think it is fair for me to say more. If I go beyond this. I would be breaking conventions and etiquettes. We are clear in our minds that we want elections to be held as soon as possible, as soon as the atmosphere improves and we would like to have the cooperation of all the parties in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry; his answer does not satisfy us. So, in protest we are walking out from the House.

20.00 hrs

Shri George Fernandes and Some other Hon. Members then left the House

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADANLAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Since he has not given a definite date, we are walking out of the House

Shri Madan Lal Khurana and some other Hon. Members then left the House

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): May I, through you, ask a question to the Hon. Minister who is replying, that about fixing the date for elections in Punjab will he or his Government very soon call an all party meeting to discuss the matter?

THE MINSTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS(SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, on this point, we are absolutely clear. We will call an all party meeting. This is an important matter and this is a national issue. As the Prime Minister made it very clear, on national issues a consensus will be evolved by consulting all the parties. We will call you and discuss about the situation in Punjab very soon and decide about the date of elections. We will do this at the earliest.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, Mr. Pawan Kumar Banlas very rightly focussed upon the need to take the right steps immediately. There should be a joint front of all like-minded parties who are interested in bringing about peace and normalcy for prosperity in Punjab. There is a mild meeting of minds already and let us hope that this would extend and all parties would together decide on taking steps.

Lastly, I would only like to state that an impression is being sought to be made out by some of the Opposition leaders, especially the former Prime Minister that this Government seems to belive only in strong arm tactics. That is totally untrue; on the contrary, we are very clear that while we will be very firm with the terrorists and anti-nationals, at the same time, we are open totally to discuss with anybody who wishes to work within the constitutional framework.

Now, I request that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Let me again repeat that we will take all the Parties into confidence and we will call and discuss with them about the Punjab issue and also about holding elections in Punjab. It will be done as early as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First I take it that we extend the time of the House till the business is over.

Now the question is:

"that the Bill to cancel certain notifications calling for general elections in relation to the State of Punjab, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

" Clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"Clause I, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill"

The Mmtion was adopted

Clause I, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed".

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The Government has moved the Bill to cancel the previous notifications calling for general elections in Punjab. The evasive reply given by the Minister will not do here. Tomorrow is the last day of the Session. Thereafter, 11th November, 1991 is the last day for the President's rule in Punjab. So, I do not require any reply from him. But I feel that if not today, at least by tomorrow, the whole country must be told through this House, preferably by the Prime Minister or the Home Minister that the elections shall be held in Punjab. The conditions are to be created there. It is not merely the conditions are to be created but he should say that the conditions shall be created. He should say that with all, out cooperation from the Parties, they will hold the elections.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): I beg to know from the Hon. Minister one or two things.

I want to know from the Hon. Minister categorically what are the root causes for the situation due to which the elections in Punjab have not taken place.

Who are the terrorists? Why have they become terrorists? What is the percentage of people's support in their favour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted

20.08 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (PUNJAB), 1991-92

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHARAD DIGHE): I shall now put the Demands for Grants for Punjab 1991-92 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1992, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 30."

The motion was adopted

20.09 hrs.

THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) NO. 2 BILL, 1991

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill provide for the withdrawl of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab for the services of a part of the financial year, 1991-92.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab for the services of a part of the financial year, 1991-92."

The Motion was adopted

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: I introduce* the Bill.

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* Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President